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PUBLIC

CHARACTERS

OF

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Ne quid falsum dicere audeat,—ne quid verum (benevolentia tantummodo) non dicere. TACITUS.

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PUBLIC CHARACTERS,

1828.

LORD LYNDHURST.

IT is much to the honour of the institutions of this happy country, that in almost every profession, and throughout every department of the public service, there is a free and unimpeded career for merit. There is nothing like a prejudice in favour of a privileged class, to anticipate the rewards due by right to a zealous and laborious service. One of the most eminent personages of the present age, the distinguished Lord Chief Justice Abbott, upon his promotion to the dignity of the coif, afforded a singular example at once of his own personal modesty, and of the truth of the above remark. Upon such occasions, it is an established practice for the newly made Serjeant at Law to give rings, and to select some motto expressive either of his political principles, or of the cause to which he attributes his success in his profession. Lord Tenterden's motto, chosen by himself upon this occasion, was the significant word "*Labore*," thus expressing, that he considered himself as owing his elevation to the judicial bench, to his

industry. If the term "legal talent" be added, the cause assigned by the motto would, indeed, be what every one acknowledges to be just. Lord Tenterden, like Lord Lyndhurst, owes every thing, at least as a secondary cause, to his own personal merit, in his laborious profession. In the tall thin boy in Canterbury free Grammar School, distinguished only by his steady application to his books, and by his plain and simple manners, no one could, fifty years ago, have anticipated that the son of a burgess of Canterbury, would be the future Chief Justice of England. As little could any one have been able to predict that the son of an active but plain citizen of Boston in America, assisting his father, perhaps, to grind his colours in his profession of a portrait painter, would, in progress of time, become the future Chancellor of Great Britain. Indeed, almost all the eminent characters of the present age, and particularly in the legal profession, are strong examples of this truth, that a free government is particularly favourable both towards creating merit, and rewarding it. When the late Lord Gifford was first appointed Solicitor-General, upon the recommendation of Sir Vicary Gibbs, and was warmly congratulated upon the appointment by an acquaintance who met him in the street, he replied, that it was, indeed, a most unexpected good fortune—"It is only within a very short time, (added he), that I was thankful to the attorney who gave me seven shillings for drawing a declaration." Lord Gifford, indeed, owed his

elevation to two causes only; his own labour, and the happy circumstance of having been a townsman of Sir Vicary Gibbs.

John Singleton Copley, now Lord Lyndhurst, was born at Boston, in America, about the year 1770. He was the son of John Copley, a young man, at that time practising the profession of a portrait painter in that city. His father, even at this early period, was much, and most deservedly, distinguished for his talents: the writer of this memoir has seen portraits executed by him at Boston, which are evidently the production of a masterly pencil. Lord Lyndhurst's mother was a Miss Clark, the daughter of a most respectable merchant, and with whom it is probable his father received a very considerable portion. Mr. Clark, the father of Mrs. Copley, was, in his capacity of principal merchant of Boston, the agent and factor of the English East India Company for the sale of their teas; and he exercised this office at a time when circumstances rendered it peculiarly dangerous. It is scarcely necessary to relate, that the war of separation between England and the United States, originated in the exaction of the duty upon tea, and that it was in the city of Boston that the populace first seized the ships laden with tea, and threw the chests overboard, that they might not pay the tax. Mr. Clark's office of agent and broker for the English East India Company, rendered him, under such circumstances peculiarly an object of

odium, and the war was scarcely commenced, before he must necessarily have experienced the effects of popular prejudice.

When the war was concluded by the general peace in 1784, all those upon whom choice or circumstances had imposed a decided part, found it prudent to quit the country of the United States, and, giving up their property, to throw themselves upon the protection of the English government at home. Mr. Copley, the father of the Chancellor, was one of this body of American loyalists, and he accordingly quitted Boston with his family about this period, and passed into England. His eminence in his art of a painter, necessarily suggested London as the residence most suited for his talents. He was probably fortified in abiding by this selection, by the eminent success of his countryman West, whom nature had likewise rendered a most distinguished painter in a remote province of America, and who had sought for suitable patronage and employment in England. West was at this time the painter for the court, and was in so much favour with the sovereign, as to be almost daily at Buckingham House, and painting under the immediate eye of the King. West was accustomed to relate, that he was with the King, at Buckingham House, when the intelligence arrived of the capture of Lord Cornwallis and his army, and that he himself had received the same intelligence as early as the government, and had the letter in his pocket. West, passing some noblemen in the palace, observed, as he stated, evident marks

of embarrassment, but did not suspect the cause, till the King asked him if he had lately received any news from America? West immediately mentioned the letter and its contents; the King appeared thunderstruck, the ministers not having, as yet, communicated to him these disastrous despatches.

Upon reaching London, Mr. Copley's first proceeding was to enter himself a member of the Academy of Painters, and, as may be supposed, to avail himself of all the aids which England and English artists afforded, in his progress towards eminence. He had fortunately chosen that branch of the profession, to which public patronage has always been most favourably directed. It is a small class only, who in any country are possessed of sufficient taste to purchase historical or scenic subjects at high prices. In paintings of this nature, the only inducement to purchasers must be a love of the art itself, and a just perception of the beauty of forms and colour; a degree and kind of cultivated taste, which is confined to a very small class. But portrait painting recommends itself to the personal vanity and domestic affections of all. The peer or alderman, who would regard the finest picture of Helen or Andromache with utter indifference, would experience a very different sensation at a just portrait of himself or of any part of his family. Hence, portrait painting will always be the surest and most lucrative branch of the art; and those who aspire to a fortune will act

prudently in remembering this axiom. At the present moment, a very large collection of the pictures by West are in vain seeking a purchaser at home and abroad; whilst Opie, Beechey, Owen, Lawrence, and others, who have had the good sense to follow the taste of the town, have reaped a splendid harvest for their labours.

At the period of Mr. Copley's arrival in England, or rather, when he first became known, the time was peculiarly favourable for the exertions of the new artist. Sir Joshua Reynolds, though still living, had long ceased to exercise his pencil; Sir William Beechey was, indeed, just rising into fame, and Opie was becoming known. But Sir William Beechey was already distinguished, and, as it were, confined to a particular line of portraits; in representing the delicacy of female beauty, and its suitable attitudes and drapery, he was justly reputed to excel; but this character of his pencil was but ill-suited for the portraits of men. Opie, like Owen at a later period, excelled in manly strength, and in a faithful but rough pencil. There was, therefore, a middle line still open—the strength of Opie, with more taste and refinement; or the elegance and simplicity of Beechey, with more strength. If the opinion of the writer of this biography be just, Copley succeeded in attaining this medium, almost as soon as he attempted it, and was immediately rewarded by public favour. He thus gradually rose to fortune and reputation, and became another example, that strenuous

labour, and good natural talents, are always sure of success in a market so large and open as the English metropolis.

There was still another circumstance at this period, which was peculiarly favourable for the future growth and improvement of artists, and which at once improved the taste of the public, and of the professors. Not only the art itself, but the patronage and encouragement of the professors, had become fashionable; the fame, and knowledge, and gentlemanly manners of Sir Joshua Reynolds, had raised the condition of a painter in public estimation, and the houses of persons of the first rank were open to them as to equal visitants; no one, indeed, could venture to under-rate a class of men, with whom Burke and Johnson delighted to associate; and accordingly an artist no sooner rose to reputation, than his society was generally sought, and was everywhere welcome. The King himself set the example, and the nobility cheerfully followed it; perhaps, nothing had a happier tendency to improve the art itself, than thus raising the condition of those who practised it. As long as the chief merit of portrait painting consists more in the faithful and striking representation of character, than in the mere lines of the external form, so long will those be the best painters, whom an extensive intercourse, and a liberal association with the higher classes, enable to enter into a more just conception of the manners and mind of those whom they are employed to paint.

It is not immaterial here to observe, that young Copley, the son, necessarily participated from early life in the same good society, and that his present distinguished manners may unquestionably be traced to this source. It is certainly not too much to add, that the courts of law, for at least three-fourths of a century, have not possessed a Chancellor of more polished demeanor and gentlemanly manners. In his court, as everywhere else, Thurlow had no pretensions to the graces; Lord Eldon was, indeed, patient and courteous; and Lord Erskine had the civility becoming his station, and the freedom and frankness belonging to his peculiar character: but Lord Eldon was still the lawyer, and Lord Erskine could at no time cease to be something of the coxcomb. Lord Lyndhurst, so far as the external deportment of the gentleman is concerned, exceeds them both, as much as both of them excelled in an immeasurable degree their two predecessors. It is not intended in this observation to undervalue, for a moment, such a name as that of Lord Eldon: the writer feels it but justice to express his hope, that every future Chancellor, and Lord Lyndhurst amongst the number, may as justly merit the admiration of those who love the country and its constitution.

At the time of his father's arrival in England, young Copley, being about 14 years of age, was sent to a classical school, where he received an education to prepare him for the University. We have not heard, that he distinguished himself at

this period of his life, but it is certain, that he acquired a very creditable stock of such Greek and Latin as is usually acquired at such seminaries. His earliest instruction was in Boston, where he received not only the first elements of literature, but imbibed a degree of natural taste which he has never lost. The country about Boston is wild and grand, and the whole province abounds in all that landscape and scenery, which is adapted to form a just and manly taste. Perhaps the peculiar style of such of the painters as we have received from America, may be imputed to this character of the scenery and images around them, in their earlier years, when the mind and the imagination receive the deepest impressions, and images are engraven, which are never afterwards effaced. Let any one, for example, endeavour to recal the scenes of his early life, and compare the force and vividness of the pictures which they have left, with his recollections of a more advanced period, and he will at once perceive the different power of imagination in boyhood and manhood; he will at once understand, how our character is influenced, if not altogether formed, by the scenery, images, and circumstances around us in our youthful days.

If Lord Lyndhurst be more eminently distinguished for any thing than for his rapid success in his professional life as a lawyer, it is for a high degree of taste, visible in his manners, deportment, and in all the circumstances of his daily life; and it will certainly not be thought that we assign a

cause for this distinction merely fanciful, when we attribute it in part to his education in the house of an artist so distinguished as his father, and in part to the peculiar character of the town and country which were his native place.

After remaining at school about seven years, young Copley, about the year 1792, was removed to the University, and entered as a student in Trinity College, Cambridge, a college at all times distinguished as the first in that University, and, perhaps never more so than at that period. It had long been a kind of fashion for the two Universities of Oxford and Cambridge to choose each a distinct line and course for itself, and for each to confine its efforts to excel in its own particular line. Hence, Oxford had chosen classical literature, whilst Cambridge had selected the mathematics; and each, as a University, had carried its choice so far, and rendered it so exclusive, as to regard with indifference, if not absolute contempt, the pursuit of the other. Several circumstances, however, have concurred, to render Trinity College an exception from the example of the other colleges in Cambridge. Trinity College was not only the *alma mater* of Barrow and Newton, but of Bentley, and other names of like eminence in classical lore. Again, by the connexion between Trinity College and the public schools of England, and particularly of Westminster School, there is an annual admission of some of the best educated youths of the kingdom into this college, most of

whom become, *de jure*, foundation scholars upon their first entrance, and by afterwards becoming fellows do much to maintain the classical taste of the society. At this particular period, when young Copley was a student, there was yet a third circumstance, and which produced an effect still more powerful in deciding the bent of this college;—this was the residence of Porson, unquestionably the first Grecian since the days of Bentley: however, his rude and vulgar habits, not to say his irregular and profligate course of life, have undoubtedly tarnished his fame. The reputation of Porson, however, acted as a spur upon all the studious youth of the University; and it is not too much to presume, that Lord Lyndhurst may owe much to his fellow collegian.

There was another contemporary of young Copley, whom he more resembled in one portion of his taste and habits, and which taste and habits his lordship has carried from boyhood into his present mature life and elevated station. Mr. Farish, since professor, was, at this period, in the midst of those studies and experiments by which he has so much illustrated the practical process of the manufactures of the empire, and communicated a most valuable kind and portion of knowledge, in a mode which most strongly impresses it upon the memory of youth. This practical mechanism, this exhibition of all the mechanical arts and manufactures of the country, in models representing their process, accompanied with an

exposition of the mechanical or chemical principles, upon which such combinations of such powers, or elements, produce such results, cannot fail to impress itself upon the memory of every studious youth, and gradually to form a taste, and infuse a knowledge, which, in future life, may lead to the most useful results. As respects young Copley, it will excite, perhaps, some surprise, to say, that he is still eminently distinguished for his skill and practice in mechanics; that his favourite amusement is still his box of tools, and that a former Lord Chancellor, Lord Erskine, was not more gratified with a cotillon or quadrille, than the present is of diverting the tedium of a rainy day, in the long vacation, by making the model of some house or church, or by repairing what his servants or children may have demolished.

One of the contemporaries of Lord Lyndhurst, at this period, or perhaps a few years earlier, and with whom the writer of this memoir, has the pleasure of being acquainted, is accustomed to relate an anecdote, which shews that this mechanical taste was very decided in the mind of young Copley, in early youth. Lunardi, the inventor of baloons, had made two or three ascents in London, and had thence turned all the curiosity of the public towards that invention. Young Copley was much struck with it, and was daily occupied with reducing to practice what he saw, or what he imagined, would tend towards the improvement of the invention. On one occasion, in particular, having

constructed a considerable fire-baloon, he succeeded in making it ascend according to his wishes; but, in descending, it alighted and fixed itself upon the spire of the steeple of St. George's, Hanover Square, and there caught fire and burned. His father's house was at this period in George Street, (the same house which the Lord Chancellor now occupies), for so rapid was the success of Mr. Copley, the father, that he was scarcely known, before he rose to opulence.

About this time, his father made a journey to Italy for the purpose of visiting the finished works of ancient art, and improving his own taste and imagination by studying the pictures of the great Italian masters. We have heard it related, that Mr. Copley reaped an astonishing degree of improvement from this journey, and was himself so sensible of it, that his first care on his return was to buy up as many of his former pictures as he could procure, and entirely to suppress them. It is certain, that his style of painting became improved. Hitherto, he had been distinguished by a rough strength, and a faithful, ready, and manly pencil. Henceforth, the effect of this strength was greatly raised by an infusion of grace and delicacy. His pictures bore a higher value in the public market of taste and fashion, and he soon became regarded as in the first line of the painters of the age.

It was about the same time that he adopted, and carried to a far greater extent, a happy device

of the late Mr. West, the President of the Royal Academy,—that of introducing known characters, as portraits, in his historical pictures; and thus, at once, uniting the interest always accompanying the persons of living characters with the attractions of historical painting. Most of the historical paintings of Mr. Copley, the father of Lord Lyndhurst, contain actual portraits of the known living characters of that period; and we have no doubt, that in some of them may be found the portrait of Lord Lyndhurst, drawn and painted by the hands of his father. We have cause to know, that such was the practice of West; and we have no doubt that Copley, the most intimate friend of Mr. West, at this period, imitated his example to its full extent.

Amongst other eminent characters who came from America, and fixed their residence in England, at the same period of time, was Mr. Wilson, the father of Sir Robert Wilson, the present member for Southwark. Wilson was the intimate friend of West, and we believe, of Mr. Copley; he was well known for a peculiar bias towards electricity, which the invention of Franklin (iron conductors) had then brought into the fashion of the day. Wilson maintained that wooden conductors were both safer and more effectual. The President of the Royal Academy used to relate a pleasant jest of the late King, George the Third, upon this subject, which Lord Lyndhurst may doubtless remember: West was one day explaining to his Majesty this invention of Wilson's,—the wooden

conductors, and the principles upon which he (Wilson) maintained their superiority. What is your Majesty's opinion, said West, in conclusion. "My opinion?" said the King, "Why, I tell you what it is, Mr. West: It is this, that if your countryman, Mr. Wilson, wants to be supplied with wooden conductors, I think he cannot do better than take my Ministers."

Mr. Copley greatly distinguished himself in his academical career; and obtained in the examination for the first degree the high station of Second Wrangler, the Senior having been assigned to Dr. Butler, the present very learned and efficient Head Master of Harrow School. When the season for contending for Smith's Mathematical Prize, arrived, a few weeks subsequent to the examination for the degree of Bachelor of Arts, he entered the lists of this honourable competition, and succeeded in acquiring the second honour on that occasion. Those who know the University of Cambridge, and the very exact and profound mathematical knowledge which it requires to give a young man a chance of becoming a Wrangler, will not require to be informed how respectable must have been the attainments of Mr. Copley to stand so high upon the list.

Mr. Copley remained some further time at the University, and a vacancy having occurred, and his high place in the list of Wranglers, as well as his mathematical prize, having entitled him to

the preference, he was elected a Fellow of Trinity College, which is worth about a hundred and twenty pounds a-year, but proceeds, annually increasing, till it reaches five or six hundred pounds. It is accompanied, however, with two conditions—the first, that the fellows must remain unmarried; the second, that, after seven years, they must take orders, or surrender their fellowships. Mr. Copley declined to take orders, and was therefore compelled to give up his fellowship within the stated time.

Immediately returning to London, he entered himself on the books of the Temple as a student of the law. His father was at this period considerably advanced in reputation and wealth, and young Copley, therefore, commenced his legal studies with every advantage which wealth could give him. There is scarcely, indeed, an example of such rapid success in their several lives, as was experienced by these three American refugees, West, Wilson, and Copley: All of them made fortunes; and, we believe, two of them, with a singular felicity, having had the happy confidence to take establishments of the first respectability immediately upon their arrival, were scarcely well settled in them, before they were enabled to purchase them. As far back as we can trace Mr. Copley, the father of Lord Lyndhurst, we find him occupying the same most respectable and substantial house in George Street, Hanover Square, which is now the family residence and patrimony

of his son, the Lord Chancellor.—The same, we believe, is true of Mr. West; and Wilson, the father of the present Sir Robert, though not equally successful with the other two, died in circumstances of comparative opulence.

The nation was at this time in the midst of the first war of the French Revolution.—Paine had published his notorious work, the Rights of Man, and Burke had saved the country by his splendid and triumphant refutation. It is very much to the credit of Lord Lyndhurst, that, though a young man at this time, and in the very midst of the contagion of these execrable principles of anarchy and equalization, his own principles were untainted, and he retained his attachment to the constitution of his country. It may be allowed, however, to the writer to lament, that his Lordship perhaps at this time contracted a warmer bias towards Whig principles in church and state, than his best friends, and the writer amongst them, if he may call himself by that name, (having no other connection than that of good will,) would have wished. If the constitution of the country, and all its happy institutions, should at a future time perish under public anarchy, or pass into a military tyranny, the sure termination of all revolutionary confusion, it will be from those feelings and consequences, which, as the core and root, are necessarily wrapped up in Whig principles. The Government of the empire will not long outlive the church establishment; and the church establishment cannot

long support itself against a system, the very basis of which is, that, though our ancestors had a right to establish their own government, and to bind their posterity to a monarchy, they had no right to establish their own actual form of church worship; and that though it were obviously useful to recognize something as settled and established in the one, there was no utility in giving the same establishment to the other. That the Reformation, in a word, introduced a general liberty in religion; and that there is no mischief in there being as many sects almost as individuals. Finally, that it is a matter of utter indifference to the state what is the religion of the country, and that every man has a natural right to choose for himself.

It was at this period (1796-7) that Mr. Copley, the father of Lord Lyndhurst, finished his two most celebrated works, the Death of Lord Chatham, and the Defence of Gibraltar: Both of these works established his fame, and he thenceforth took his station in the first line of the living artists. It was at that time a circumstance of very rare occurrence, that a living artist should obtain a high price for his pictures. What Lord Bacon denominates the idolatrous prepossession of mankind towards antiquity, has always prevailed in the world with respect to the arts, and in none of them, so much as in painting. Sir Joshua Reynolds first procured good prices for the productions of his pencil; but this liberality was confined almost to himself, and originated rather in the per-

sonal vanity of the buyers than in their love of the fine arts: Sir Joshua being a portrait painter, and so generally employed by the rich and great, that the price of his labours rose from the principle of competition. But it was almost, if not altogether, a new circumstance, that a mere historical painting should command the large price usually given for the works of the best masters only.

We have heard, indeed, an anecdote from a contemporary and early friend of Lord Lyndhurst, which shews very forcibly the state of the arts at that time, and the small and most discouraging degree of public patronage which they then encountered:—"Being at dinner," said he, "one day at Mr. Copley's house, young Copley, the present Lord Chancellor, then a young boy, entered the room. The company had been previously conversing upon the different fortunes of men in different professions, 'And of what profession will you be, my little lad?' said one of the gentlemen present, taking the hand of young Copley.—'Any thing but a painter,' said his father; 'he has my permission to be any thing he chooses, but a painter; let him be a lawyer,—and if he takes my advice, he will be one.' And then, (continues the gentleman from whom we received the above anecdote,) with that happy chance which fortune sometimes verifys, his father said, 'If he is a lawyer, and an able one, what a bright fortune may await him:—He may be Solicitor-General, nay, Attorney-General; and why not, if really clever,

Lord Chancellor.'" This observation was made in Mr. Copley's (the father's) house in George Street, Hanover Square, about thirty-five years since,—in the same house which Lord Lyndhurst now occupies as Chancellor.

One of the inmates of Mr. Copley's house was Mr. Clark, his father-in-law, who had accompanied him from America upon the conclusion of the war. He was a most respectable, and, we believe, wealthy merchant, and a most intelligent man: He had an aspect particularly manly and noble,—a face like a lion, rough and shaggy, but with a peculiar air of frankness and honesty: His mind corresponded with his personal appearance,—it was clear, forcible, and determinate; and his character was completed into a striking consistency by a strong and sonorous voice. He was particularly fond of argument, and supported his loyal principles with the most determined vigour. It is certainly not a mere fanciful conjecture, that Lord Lyndhurst may owe something of the character of his own mind to these qualities of his grandfather.

Upon undertaking the study of the law, Mr. Copley applied to it with the whole vigour of his mind, and with that hard and assiduous application which he had acquired at Cambridge. There are three branches or departments in the legal profession,—that of the Common Law, that of Equity, and that of Conveyancing. It is usual with all students to make choice of one of these

only, and to apply to it with more peculiar assiduity than to either of the others. Mr. Copley made choice of the Common Law or King's Bench and Common Pleas Practice, and only gave so much attention to Equity and Conveyancing, as is essentially necessary even for the common lawyer. Indeed, the principles of the one branch run so necessarily into the two others, that though the Chancery lawyer is not rarely embarrassed, when any chance shall draw him into the courts of King's Bench and Common Pleas, the common law barrister finds very little difficulty upon his removal to a court of equity. The field of the common law is indeed so wide, and embraces such a multitude of subjects, that those who become conversant in the practice of its courts can seldom be startled by any thing entirely new in the possible practice even of the Court of Chancery.

Mr. Copley was now called to the bar, about the year 1800, a period peculiarly promising for a young barrister of active habits of business and of adequate talents. The high legal officers were all men who owed every thing to themselves, and thus afforded an example and an earnest, how much might be atchieved by steady and persevering industry, though utterly unaided by personal or family connexion, or by any species of political interest. Lord Kenyon was Lord Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench, and had obtained that high station solely by his personal merit and assiduous labour and study of his profession:

He was the son of a private gentleman, of Greddington, in one of the counties of Wales, (Flintshire), had been educated in a small Welch school, and articled to a Mr. Tomlinson, a Cheshire attorney, as a country practitioner. Upon the death of Mr. Tomlinson, the father of Mr. Kenyon was anxious that young Kenyon should succeed to his practice, and establish himself as an attorney in Nantwich, in Cheshire; but, from some circumstances, probably the want of means to pay the money for the goodwill of the connexion, this purpose was abandoned, and Mr. Kenyon came to town, and, resolving to try his fortune in a higher sphere, entered himself at Lincoln's Inn. There is reason to believe, that Mr. Kenyon found much difficulty to support himself during the necessary interval, as he was entered on the books in 1754, but was not called till 1761; being once called, his success became sure. He had gradually earned the reputation of being an eminent conveyancer, and employment flowed in upon him from every quarter. In a country like Great Britain, where property is always changing hands, and where the law of real property is such as to render it a matter of the utmost difficulty to secure a title, reputation as a conveyancer is a sure mode of acquiring a fortune. And should this biography fall into the hands of any young student, let him carry away with him this maxim, from one who has seen and observed much of legal life,—that if a man desires wealth and eminence, and feels that he

must pursue it by labour and application, let him direct his labour to conveyancing;—let him first render himself an able conveyancer; and then by some means make his knowledge known to the public, and his success is certain.

The Attorney and Solicitor-General at the same period were Sir Edward Law and Sir William Grant. Sir Edward Law, though the son of a prelate, owed every thing to himself; his father's talents and habits of life and study having been of that kind which seldom make powerful connexions to advance the fortune of the possessor's family. Mr. Law, the father of Lord Ellenborough, had been himself the architect of his own fortune,—having raised himself by his abilities from the exhibitioner of a Cumberland or Westmoreland school, to be the head of Peter House College, Cambridge, and thence an English bishop. Mr. Law, the son, had been educated under the immediate eye of his father, first at the Charter House, and, afterwards at Peter House, Cambridge, of which his brother subsequently became the Tutor. Upon attaining the proper age, his father thought that he was more fitted to shine at the bar, than in the more narrow sphere of collegiate life, and accordingly entered him at one of the Inns of Court: In due time he was called to the bar, and almost immediately became distinguished for his firmness, courage, and active intelligence,—in a word, as one of those men, who, on proper and suitable occasions, rather make the law than servilely re-

ceive its mere letter. In Mr. Addington's short ministry, a man of this talent was wanted; and Mr. Law, having accidentally become known to that minister, was, without any recommendation whatever, immediately made Attorney-General. It is, indeed, almost peculiar to Lord Sidmouth, and no inconsiderable praise to him as a minister and public man, that no one had a more acute discernment into the personal ability of men, and no one more cheerfully and liberally brought merit forward, and more manfully and candidly supported it. The time, perhaps, will arrive, when full justice will be done to the moderation, firmness, and exemplary purity and integrity of one of the most honest men whom England has boasted at the head of her administration; a man not estimated as he ought to be, because content with deserving well of his country, and careless of the reputation of having done so.

The Solicitor-General, Sir William Grant, was another of those men, who, coming from almost the lowest grade of private life, and losing not only his youth but a large portion of his manhood in obscurity and a very humble station, emerged at length by the vigour of his own mind, and in a very short period passed all those in the race of honour and emolument, who had previously (if they had known) despised his presumptuous expectations. The father of Sir W. Grant was a farmer at Elchies, in Scotland, and died collector of customs of the Isle of Man; an office at that time,

we believe, under the Duke of Athol. Sir William was brought up at the grammar school at Elgin, and thence passed to Aberdeen, a University worthy of such a school. Thence he went into England, and was assisted by an uncle, a merchant, to keep his terms in one of the Inns of Court. In due time he was called to the bar; but not obtaining practice, he was induced to go to Canada, and try his fortune as a barrister in that colony. He reached Quebec at that critical period, when it was threatened with a siege by the celebrated General Montgomery, and had been there but a very short time when the siege was actually commenced. Most of the inhabitants betook themselves to immediate flight, whilst those who remained were reduced to a state of consternation: but it was otherwise with young Grant, who is reported to have assisted at the works, and to have handled a musket with as much intrepidity as a veteran. After the siege was over, he began his practice as a barrister, and practised there several years, till he resolved to return to England, and again try his fortune in the Courts of Westminster.

Mr. Copley's first chambers were in Brick Court, Temple, up two pair of stairs, and the attornies by whom he was first employed and brought into notice were Messrs. Willet & Co., and afterwards Mr. Murray, a son of whom is now his principal secretary. From the very commencement, Mr. Copley adopted the only sure means of success,

that of a steady and persevering course of legal study, pursued in a judicious method. It was the sound advice of a man of as much learning as knowledge of life, that a young barrister should not begin his reports too high,—and that he should always bear in his mind the distinction between the law which was in use eighty or a hundred years since, and what was the law and practice of the courts in the present day; that he should read the old law like a newspaper or magazine, cursorily, and as an occasion of leisure might afford; but that the new law (the law within the last thirty years before his own time) should be read doggedly, steadily, and with a note-book ever present to make abridgments for memory and daily use. This is sound advice, and every barrister would soon reap the fruit of adopting it. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred of those which are tried in the four law terms of the year, neither reference nor authority is made to any case beyond the 1st East. Let the legal student, therefore, begin his reading (his deliberate reading) with the Reports of East, and thence read downwards; and from these and the subsequent reports of all the cases which have occurred, and been decided in the King's Bench and Common Pleas, within the last 30 years, he will acquire a stock of legal knowledge sufficient to carry him to fortune and distinction. In Equity, he cannot follow a better mode than by beginning with Vesey. All the older reports in common law and equity, Burrows, Raymond

Term Reports, and Year Books, will be very sufficiently read if they are occasionally taken up in a time of leisure, and when the portion of legal knowledge already acquired, by reading the more modern reports, shall have taught the student what to read and what to omit,—what is utterly useless and obsolete, and what is still law, under like circumstances, in these older authors.—*Probatum est.* The young barrister will have reason to thank the writer, if he will persuade himself to act upon this advice. In the earlier portion of his legal life, there has seldom been known a harder reader than Mr. Copley, now Lord Lyndhurst; and with the usual fate of hard readers, there are few, perhaps, who acquired so much of what they have since found it absolutely necessary to dismiss from their minds, and, as far as they are able, to forget. It is incredible, indeed, how much labour may be saved by a judicious method, and even in the law, how large a portion of what is indispensably necessary is contained in only a few books.

As a special pleader, that is, a drawer of pleas and declarations, we have never heard that Mr. Copley obtained either much practice, or much reputation. He was, in this respect, very unlike the late Lord Gifford, who was in the habit of drawing declarations for the smallest remuneration within a few months of his becoming Solicitor-General. But no two lawyers could be more unlike each other, than Lord Gifford and Lord Lyndhurst; agreeing only in one respect, that they

both read hardly, and both sought the prizes of their profession, by rendering themselves sound and ready lawyers. The main difference in their mode of study arose from the difference of their characters; Gifford was a lawyer only, and read law only; he had ordinary genius, and no scholastic learning; and, therefore, read his books as an attorney would read the papers of his cause. Mr. Copley was a scholar, a man of good taste, and comprehensive reading and knowledge; he, therefore, read even his law with discrimination, and did not confine his reading to law. Again, Mr. Copley was always a man of social turn and habits, and intermingled his study with the enjoyments of life. If his mornings were devoted to business or study, his evenings were passed in society; and his house in George Street has been always the scene of a lively and cheerful, we are unwilling to say, a gay and pleasurable life.

Mr. Copley had chosen the midland circuit as the theatre for his country labours. There are two departments of professional employment for the circuit barrister; the practice at sessions, and that of the assizes. The practice of the quarter sessions is usually sought, at the commencement of the legal course, as leading to business both at the assizes and in the courts of Westminster; and there are many of our present judges, and leaders at the bar, who, having no connexion of fortune or family upon the circuit which they have selected, nor, perhaps, in any place in town or country

have gradually rendered their industry and ability known by their practice at sessions; and by these sure, though slow means, acquired constant business at Westminster. It is to be presumed, that Mr. Copley was inferior to none of his competitors of equal standing, either in the sessions or the assizes. We have heard, but do not know of our own knowledge, that almost from his first appearance he distanced all his immediate competitors. The principal of these was Mr. Rough, now Serjeant Rough, a barrister who has unfortunately learned the truth of a worldly maxim, that it requires more labour to keep a reputation than to acquire it; and that even acknowledged abilities will go out of fashion, unless they conform themselves to the course of present opinions, and keep pace with their progress, so far as honour and consistency will allow. Mr. Rough, we believe, always to have been a good lawyer and a worthy man, but he wanted the dexterity, perhaps the inclination, to comply with the changing fashions of the day; and, therefore, had the ill fortune to be displaced by men of more popular and versatile talent. The result, at the time of which we now speak, was, that Mr. Rough lost nearly all his leading business on the circuit, and was succeeded in it by Mr. Copley.

Having at length obtained a large portion of business, and, at this period, having very little expectation of any aid or patronage from Government, he resolved upon assuming the coif; and

accordingly, in 1813, he was called to the dignity of Serjeant. Upon this occasion, remembering the cause to which he owed his professional success, he ordered the rings which he distributed amongst his legal brethren, to be impressed with the significant motto *studiis vigilare severis*; a motto as significant of his future purpose, as of his former habits. We have already indeed had occasion to observe, that, considering his known social habits, and what we must call a propensity to the enjoyments of company and the dinner table, no one has been a more persevering student, and no one has more steadily followed the game of fortune till he has fairly hunted it down. Mr. Copley, indeed, never read with the same persevering and continuous industry as the late Lord Chancellor Eldon; he did not carry his law books about his person, upon all occasions, and read them during a dull scene at the play or opera; but he read regularly, and during the stated time, with equal comprehension and attention. His abilities, and even his turn of mind, resembled Lord Ellenborough's rather than Lord Eldon's—vigorous and manly powers were his characteristic, and he valued law no further than as an instrument by which he hoped to rise. He certainly never puzzled himself with a case or point, merely for the pleasure of unraveling it; and always observed a marked distinction between business and recreation. In Court, a good lawyer, but at table no otherwise dis-

tinguishable from his companions than as *primus inter primos*."

In the year 1815, Mr. Copley lost his father, but not before the father had seen the son so sufficiently established in business and professional reputation, as to relieve him from all anxiety with respect to his future fortune. The mode of life of Mr. Copley, the father, had been upon a scale of expense, which had incapacitated him from bequeathing any degree of opulence to his son. The house in George Street, Hanover Square, with the pictures and furniture, and perhaps a small sum of money, were all that Mr. Copley, received from the death of his father; and the value had to be shared between Mr. Copley, his mother, and sister, whom the father left his survivors. Mr. Copley either died without a will, or the will was never proved; a circumstance which seems to justify the inference that he died with the usual fate of artists. Mr. Copley, the son, has cause, perhaps, to congratulate himself, that he was thus thrown upon his own resources, and was not tempted into indolence, by a fortune sufficient for a moderate independence. It is now a proverbial observation, that small certainties are the bane of men of abilities. In the legal course this is unhappily too well justified by experience; for the study itself is so little inviting, and so decidedly repellent, and the first fruits of success so long before they appear, that it requires much courage and strength of mind to persevere against such

unpromising circumstances; and so great perseverance is seldom, or perhaps never, exemplified in persons who can maintain their station in life by any other means.

Upon the death of his father, Mr. Copley, with his mother and sister, fixed their abode in Great George Street, where he has lived from his boyhood up to his present high dignity; and though the house is, perhaps, scarcely upon a sufficient scale for his present rank, he has the good taste, good feeling, and good sense, to remain satisfied with it. In one of the daily papers, some time since, it has been asserted, that he had purchased of the Duke of Rutland the house in Arlington Street, in which the Duke of York died, and intended to transfer his residence to that house: but we are enabled to say, that there is no truth whatever for this report. In George Street, Hanover Square, has the Lord Chancellor passed his life from about the year 1780 to the present time; and it has now become so endeared to him by long habit and early associations, that he will probably only quit it with his life. His other residence, and where he passes most of his time, is at Wimbledon; a small but well composed house and grounds, in which his Lordship lives a life perhaps more domestic than is generally reputed. In the intervals of business, but which are very short and very few, his Lordship may be here seen in his garden, or in his tool-room, pursuing the peaceful occupations of a simple and elegant

taste. Though he sometimes enjoys company, he seems to have an equal relish for privacy and retirement, and doubtless finds as much amusement in his garden as at his dinner-table. With the usual propensities of her sex, his lady, a young and fine woman, perhaps prefers the gay, splendid, and luxurious enjoyments of life, and will probably continue to do so, till the experience of the vanity of life shall teach her that she may seek happiness by a surer road. Her ladyship, however, it is but justice to say, has the reputation of adding the most valuable domestic qualities to this common character of her sex; she is said to be a most affectionate wife and mother, and to contribute so much to the happiness of her husband, as to excite an affectionate competition upon his own part to repay her in kind. Hence, so far as the most liberal establishment, and the most unrestrained supply can go, Lady Lyndhurst has not a wish ungratified. If their house, both in town and country, at London and in Wimbledon, be small and moderate, not so their table, and its appurtenances; not so their mode of living, and of entertaining company. Let it not be thought for a moment, that the writer of this memoir has any thing of an invidious or unfriendly feeling towards any of its objects: his aim only is to write like an honest and true biographer; distributing praise or blame where it may be honestly bestowed, and no farther trespassing upon domestic life and private traits of character, than belongs to a

fair, honest, and, he trusts he may add, a good humoured biographer.

Mr. Copley seems to have become more assiduous in his profession, in proportion as he began to taste the sweets. Upon the old Roman maxim, he proceeded alike towards his purpose, the pursuit of fortune, through prosperity and disappointment. In a season of success, he pushed his advantage to the utmost; in a period of difficulty, as in the commencement of his course, he only exerted himself more strenuously, both to overcome the interposing obstacles, and to encourage himself in an arduous and patient perseverance. The profession of the law shared the fortune of all professions and sources of income, upon the conclusion of the war, and the consequent decline of prices and the profits of a long and lucrative monopoly. Tradesmen and merchants were ruined to an alarming extent, and few were sufficiently rich to litigate, or they were apprehensive of the ruin of their debtor before the termination of the suit. Hence lawyers, as well as landlords, suffered under the change of the times; and what was rather unfortunate for this class of gentlemen, their sufferings did not excite much public sympathy.

Mr. Copley, we believe, was in no respect daunted by this unpromising reverse in the profits of his profession generally. His maxim was "*vigilare*,"—to be ready for every opportunity, and by knowledge and assiduity to render himself one of the most useful lawyers of the day. His frank

and open manners had already rendered him a favourite with attorneys, and what in the commencement of the profession is no less useful, with their clerks. A barrister of this character is sure of a good portion of the common and daily business of the courts, and thus obtains an opportunity, by zealously and ably doing little things, of securing attorneys in their general employment. The industry and attention of one man thus obtains what the indolence or negligence of another loses. It is, indeed, well known to those who attend the courts, that many of the most promising barristers of the present day owe their success at the bar to these two causes—that of being always in court, and always to be depended upon for a vigilant and competent performance of all business committed to them.

Hitherto, Mr. Copley, though in good reputation with the attorneys and with the public, had not been noticed by the King's ministers, no opportunity having occurred, in which his talents had been called out upon a public occasion. Two things, it is very justly observed, must always concur to produce any shining success in life; the actual possession of talents, and the opportunity for displaying them. Some persons have the courage and boldness to strike out these opportunities for themselves, a happy example of which is the present Sir Robert Wilson, one of the family friends, we believe, of Lord Lyndhurst. When Sir Robert was a boy of fifteen or sixteen only, he left his

school; and going abroad, offered himself as a volunteer in the army of the Duke of York, at that time in French Flanders. The Duke was so pleased with the courage of the youth, and the active spirit of enterprise which characterised this step, that he almost immediately advanced him to a cornetcy in a dragoon regiment, in which he and five other officers of the same regiment had shortly afterwards the good fortune to rescue the Emperor of Austria, when actually made prisoner by a French marauding party near Lincelles.

This opportunity was, at length, afforded. In the latter part of the year 1817, Mr. Hunt, now sufficiently known as a popular leader, had called a meeting in the Spa-fields, and addressed a large multitude upon the subject of general grievances, and the urgent necessity of parliamentary reform. The meeting had been long previously advertised, and from some secret information which Government had received, certain persons were employed by the Home Office to observe and report what might occur. One person in particular, since known as a man of infamous character, was employed; and it is to be presumed, was liberally paid upon this occasion. The meeting itself, though tumultuous, and probably as regarded some of the parties most criminally seditious, dispersed without any immediate mischief; but several of those who attended it eagerly availed themselves of the opportunity of an idle crowd, and putting themselves at the head of it, conducted the mob

to the end of Holborn, and there attacked the house of a gunsmith. The house was broken into and plundered, and a police officer was killed. An indictment of treason, instead of sedition and burglary, was preferred against several leaders; and amongst others, against two men of the names of Hooper and Preston. After a long and patient hearing of counsel and evidence upon the trial, the jury thought, that though a most gross and execrable degree of seditious outrage was proved against the mob, there was nothing like treason; nor were the parties accused proved to have had any concern whatever in the immediate seditious act, the attack and demolition of the gunsmith's shop. They, therefore, acquitted the parties indicted.

Mr. Copley and Mr. Wetherell were two of the counsel engaged for the defence of the prisoners upon this occasion, and both of them unusually distinguished themselves. Mr. Wetherell had taken some disgust at Government, or rather at some of the ministers, doubtless imputing to them that he had been too long overlooked. He deemed this trial to be a suitable occasion for the expression of his feelings, and for a strain of retaliating rebuke of the measures of Administration. In his observations upon the evidence of the spy employed by Government, he enlarged, with more spirit than discretion, upon the narrow policy of employing such instruments, and upon the mischief to great interests, and the contrariety with all high and generous feelings, of an Administra-

tion carried on by such aids. Lord Liverpool happened to be present in court, and though the open and manly character of this nobleman was very far removed from the possibility of appropriating any portion of this censure to himself, he was, perhaps, justly offended at this common assault upon his ministry. Mr. Wetherell was followed by Mr. Copley, who contrived to perform his part of the duty without any of this imprudent warmth, and to give a favourable display of his general talents and professional dexterity in the presence of the first minister. His fortune was thenceforth made. The satisfaction of Lord Liverpool was, as we have understood, so visibly expressed, that the promotion of Mr. Copley was anticipated in the profession. A man of his talents, and particularly a lawyer who could speak well, was much wanted: Shepherd, the Attorney-General, being unhappily deaf, and Gifford, the Solicitor-General, being in no favour with the house. This latter lawyer, though a worthy man, and one who owed his rise to his industrious labour in his profession, had, indeed, a tiresome, prosing loquacity, of which we have never before or since seen an example, and which he rendered doubly intolerable by an air of conceit and self-sufficiency. The ministry, therefore, were on the look out for a lawyer to their purpose, and they now discovered one in Mr. Copley.

A vacancy happened fortunately to occur very early in the commencement of the following year,

when Mr. Shepherd being moved to a seat on the Scotch bench, Mr. Solicitor-General Gifford became Attorney-General in his place. Mr. Copley thereupon became Solicitor-General; a nomination which gave equal satisfaction to the bar, and to that portion of the public which take any interest in legal promotions. Six months only before this advancement occurred, we believe no one had less anticipated such a favour from the Administration than Mr. Copley, and his friends had been still less sanguine than himself. He now, however, saw himself upon the high road to the honours of the bar; and he ventured to do an act, which is not usually done with the same prudent deliberation by other rising barristers—he ventured upon changing his condition: and becoming the suitor of Mrs. Thomas (the widow of a Colonel Thomas, who was killed in the battle of Waterloo), he shortly afterwards succeeded in gaining the honour of her hand. This lady, the present Lady Lyndhurst, has since in every respect constituted the happiness of his life; her feminine graces, and personal beauty, which are considerable, are said to be accompanied by a cheerful and affectionate temper. In a word, the Lord Chancellor, if every concurrent report be true, possesses in his lady one of the most valuable gifts—that of a happy home. May it be allowed to us to hope, that her Ladyship likewise is not deficient in those sounder qualities, and still more valuable habits of do-

mestic life, which become the Christian gentlewoman.

An affair now occurred, which kindled up the flames of party from one end of the kingdom to the other, and indeed, by something of mismanagement, arrayed nearly the whole of one sex, and by a necessary consequence, a large majority of the other, against the Crown and its Ministers: we scarcely need add, that we are speaking of the unfortunate affair of the late Queen. Now that the transaction is so entirely passed away, and that we can regard it without catching any thing of the popular contagion, it appears truly wonderful that such a woman, and such a cause, could excite any thing like a general and indiscriminate sympathy in a nation characteristically moral and delicate. So it was, however, that the Government was almost endangered by this mistaken generosity on the part of the people. As the Attorney and Solicitor-General had to bear a prominent part in carrying this measure through the court of enquiry and trial, it is not to be expected that they could altogether elude the effect of the popular prejudice. The Attorney-General, already sufficiently unpopular, or at least without any positive reputation, now shared, almost equally with Sir John Leach himself, in the public ridicule: and it cannot but appear a subject of just surprise, that Sir John Copley, as Solicitor-General, entirely escaped this unpleasant consequence.

In truth, he had the happy dexterity at once to satisfy the Government, and not to offend the people; to perform his duty to the Crown, and elude the odium of being a willing instrument in the prosecution. To the astonishment of Europe, and to the disgrace of the wisdom and gravity, if not of the good sense and justice of the country, the Queen was *all but* acquitted, and the Government and the Crown officers entirely defeated.

It is a subject worthy of passing observation, that all the Crown officers concerned in this trial have subsequently risen to the highest dignities in the law, or at least (in despite of the constant vicissitudes of parties) are in the necessary road towards attaining them. Mr. Tindal, who was one of the junior counsel for the prosecution, is now Solicitor-General; and even Sir John Leach, though for some years in ill favour both with the Crown and people, is now safe in one of the best places under the Government. Gifford became a peer, and only missed being Chancellor, by not living long enough to attain that high dignity.

The Government was so well satisfied with the conduct of Sir John Copley, and with the daily proof of his talents both in and out of the House, and particularly with the popular favour which seemed now to rally around him, and to designate him as a suitable person to be promoted, that Lord Liverpool now waited only for an opportunity to advance him, and it was generally understood by the public and the profession, that he

was marked out for the highest honours of the law and state. A second time, and within a few months, an opportunity presented itself for this advancement. In the end of the year 1823, Sir Robert Dallas resigned the office of Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and was succeeded by Sir Robert Gifford, who was at that time Attorney-General. Sir John Copley became Attorney-General in the place of Gifford, and indeed followed him in all his advances. Upon attaining this dignity, Gifford having to become a Serjeant, and to give the usual rings, took the appropriate motto, "*Secundis Laboribus.*" No one, indeed, had worked harder for his promotion than Gifford, and no one had more unexpectedly attained it. Lord Eldon completed what Sir V. Gibbs had so well begun. He found Gifford a safe and not incompetent man, and as the times, and Lord Eldon's own peculiar circumstances, required such an auxiliary, he adopted him. It should be added, that Gifford, though not an able man, was in every respect an honest one, and merited his rise in life by the use he made of his fortune amongst those who depended upon him.

Sir John Copley having now attained the rank of Attorney-General, very naturally aspired to become the representative of his *Alma Mater* in Parliament; and as the general election of 1826 afforded him the desired opportunity, he immediately availed himself of it, and carried his election. The University had just reason to be proud

of such a member, and he added another example to a number of others, that academical honours, obtained at the University in the course of education, are not altogether thrown away. When the ruinous expense to persons of moderate fortune of a University education is considered, and the probable consequences to incautious youth of contracting debts which may follow them through a long course of their future life, are well weighed, it must be acknowledged by the best friends of our Universities, that too much cannot be thrown into the other scale to render the probable gain worth the certain cost.

Another change in the fortunes of Lord Gifford was to produce yet another change in those of Sir John Copley. In a few months after Copley had become Attorney-General, Gifford died suddenly at Dover. Copley succeeded him as Master of the Rolls; and was immediately, as it were, designated by the profession and the public to succeed him in what he had lost only by his death, the reversion of the Chancellorship upon the resignation of Lord Eldon.

Whilst Sir John Copley was in this office of Master of the Rolls, and an expectant only of the high station which was about to be vacated, he made his memorable speech upon the Catholic Question, which excited so much anger upon one side of the house, and gave so much satisfaction on the other. It cannot be denied, that the greater portion of this speech was a repetition of

the argument of Dr. Philpot, who had published a pamphlet upon the subject in debate, and which pamphlet was, at that time, in the hands of every one who took any interest in the question. So far as the mere argument was concerned, it was matter of fair use, there was more strength and justice than novelty and invention in it, and whoever might chance to hear or read it, had a very good right to carry it away and make his own use of it. The method, arrangement, illustration, the phrases of particular force, and principles well and exactly limited, certainly belonged, as a literary property, to the doctor; and if Sir John Copley adopted them, he was assuredly bound to make a fair acknowledgment of his original.

Upon the melancholy occurrence to Lord Liverpool, and the appointment of Mr. Canning to nominate a ministry, Sir John Copley, at the express desire of the King, and upon the distinct recommendation of Lord Eldon, was appointed Chancellor. No appointment could give more general satisfaction through the court and country, excepting only to the remains of that party with whom Sir John had acted in his first entrance upon public life, and had subsequently left: nor can it be denied, that, with the usual fate of those who change sides, with whatever good reason, the Lord Chancellor is not so much valued even by his own party, as if his political principles had been all along the same. The suspicion will intrude, that he has changed more from interest than con-

viction, and that such principles will not stand the test in any season of contest and difficulty:—what has been embraced from interest may hereafter be abandoned from the same cause; fortune has only to change her side, and her adherents will follow as she leads.

Our own feelings are not of this nature: we believe the Chancellor to be an honest man, and have certainly no quarrel with him for leaving the Whigs. We would wish only, that in leaving his party, he had left all their principles behind him. Under present circumstances, he has certainly too much the appearance of having marched over to one party, and to have brought with him the arms, accoutrements and baggage, which he received as having belonged to another. A Tory Chancellor, attacking the integrity of the Established Church, we mean its rights and principles, is certainly a phenomenon in the Tory ranks, which we little expected to see; and, to be lauded, we trust we shall not see long.

Upon being appointed Lord Chancellor, and being raised to the peerage, Sir John took the title of Lord Lyndhurst. We have never heard why his Lordship, or perhaps his lady, fixed upon this designation, as he has no estate in that neighbourhood, nor in any part of the New Forest, or county of Hampshire. Perhaps, he was led to this choice by his admiration of this beautiful solitude in some occasional Summer tour. Lyndhurst is in the immediate vicinity of the picturesque

and romantic property of the present Sir George Rose,—the son of another favourite child of fortune, who, beginning life as a purser in the navy, terminated it as one of our richest placemen. In the course of a long and active life, there is nothing more striking than the very different conditions in which the same person, at two different times, may have chanced to travel over the same road. We have heard that the late Mr. Rose once observed to a travelling companion, "How often have I travelled over this road, as a purser, on the top of a stage-coach, on which I am now rolling in this luxury of wealth and consequence." Mr. Rose, at least, might have said so; and so might the present Lord Lyndhurst; for, in the beginning of his professional life, in his journeys to and from Lymington, no one could have dreamed that such would be his future elevation.

By means of his wife Lord Lyndhurst is related, or rather intimately connected, with the family of the late Attorney-General Shepherd, now Chief Baron of Scotland, another example how talent and industry may elevate individuals to the highest offices of the state. The father of Sir Samuel Shepherd was a silversmith, and had one son and two daughters. The son, (Sir Samuel Shepherd), after having been educated at St. Paul's School, was bound to his father's trade as a silversmith, and would have continued one all his life, had not his eldest sister married a Mr. Runnington, a young barrister, afterwards Ser-

jeant Runnington: Runnington persuaded young Shepherd to quit his trade as a silversmith, and enter himself as a student of law at one of the Inns of Court. It is unnecessary to add, that, in process of time, he became Solicitor-General, Attorney-General, and Chief Baron of Scotland. The other daughter married a Mr. Burnsford, a merchant and factor in Basinghall Street. Miss Burnsford, the daughter of this gentleman, married Colonel Thomas, who, three months after his marriage, in June, 1814, was summoned to join his regiment in the Netherlands, and was killed at the battle of Waterloo. His young widow, Mrs. Thomas, went immediately to live with her uncle, Sir Samuel Shepherd, at that time Solicitor-General, where she was seen by Mr. Copley, and, after the due attentions, became his wife. By this lady his Lordship has two children, both girls.

In his manners and deportment, no one more completely fills up the notion of a finished gentleman than Lord Lyndhurst. We have already had occasion to mention, that from his earliest life he was accustomed to good society. His grandfather's fortune, added to his father's earnings as an artist, enabled them to live in good style; and the whole family, as well as his Lordship, appear to have been distinguished by cultivated taste. We have heard, from the friends of the family, and from the associates of Lord Lyndhurst's early life, that, forty years ago, the family were celebrated for their plentiful and opulent mode of entertain-

ment. It was probably a happy circumstance, that the private fortune of the family, and particularly of his Lordship's grandfather, Mr. Clark, who lived with them, afforded the means of this expenditure, the arts, as they are called, having had always in England the same fate which they have at present,—there was no market for the productions of the British school. The splendid gallery of West, the President, is still unsold, though it doubtless possesses many very noble paintings which would confer honour on any collection. In one word, if a painter wish to have any success, he must appeal, as the late Mr. Copley had the good sense to do, to feelings more common and general than to the public love of the arts;—where there are hundreds in this rich country, who would cheerfully pay a large price for the portrait of their wife, their daughter, their son, their parents, how few are there who would give a suitable remuneration for the time and labour consumed in an historical painting. Let us candidly confess that we ourselves are amongst the latter number.

Lord Lyndhurst has a mother and a sister, who are living with him, and one, if not more brothers, in America.

In his temper and disposition, his Lordship is of a cheerful tone,—perhaps a little too much disposed to social enjoyments; but he adds to this quality of mind what is seldom seen with it, great simplicity in his enjoyments, and the power

of persevering labour and continuous application. He owes this quality of mind to his early study at Cambridge. It is incredible, indeed, how great a portion of labour and unbroken application is required and afforded by those youths who aspire to University honours, and through them to fellowships: Ten and twelve hours a-day for three years, without any interval of relaxation, is what is ordinarily expended. The result is too frequently not only loss of health, but such an exhaustion of mind, that the man becomes afterwards utterly nerveless, and sinks into indolence. In some few cases, the faculties are so confirmed and strengthened as to qualify a man for excellence in any thing he may pursue. The Chancellor's appears to be one of those cases.

Lord Lyndhurst, having been born about 1770, is now in his 57th year, with a fine manly form, and an admirable state of health, strength, and spirits.—May he live long to enjoy them.

In private life, Lord Lyndhurst, as Chancellor, lives upon a much more liberal style than distinguished his predecessors, and appears to expend profusely what the country has bestowed munificently. When Lord Eldon was reproached in the House of Lords with receiving an income too large for his services, and very disproportionate to the public necessities, he replied that he had never received more than fifteen thousand pounds per annum from his income as Chancellor. The ministry took him at his word, and a plan was in

agitation at the time of his resignation, by which the salary of Chancellor was to have been fixed at £16,000 per annum; all the fees, which at present compose the income, were to have been paid into the hands of an officer appointed by the Treasury, and the excess beyond the £16,000 (if any) to belong to the public service. We do not know whether this salutary measure is to be revived, but we know that the income of the present Chancellor cannot much fall short of £20,000. This revenue, as we have above said, is expended in a large, and rather profuse mode of living, by the present Lord Chancellor, who unites in his habits two qualities not often seen in the same man,—a capacity for great labour and an inclination to great self indulgence,—the simplicity of a temperate man, and the habits of a boon companion. If any purpose or business requires the cool and calm exercise of all the powers of his mind, Lord Lyndhurst can be as abstemious as an anchorite; he can pass the whole day together with a biscuit and a glass of water, but he no sooner escapes the labour and the necessity, than he returns to habits more congenial with his nature and temperament. It is as far from our purpose to exaggerate this part of his character, as it is to recommend it to imitation: suffice it to say, that his unquestionable abilities, and his very many gentlemanly qualities, would command a much larger portion of public esteem, if they were accompanied by a more uniform gravity of private life.

His leisure time is divided between his two houses in George Street, Hanover Square, and at Wimbledon. His cabinet dinners, and his more select entertainments, are usually given at Wimbledon, whilst Lady Lyndhurst gives her own routes and parties in George Street. His style of entertaining, perhaps we should rather say her Ladyship's, is costly in the extreme; no one amongst the nobility exceeds him in what the Greek poet calls the three ἀγαλματα βιου, costly plate, magnificent furniture, and a well piled table. We question whether Pericles could have presented a more splendid spectacle of *dapes congestæ inter lances superbas,* than daily may be seen within the walls of the Lord Chancellor's house at Wimbledon. To these three ornaments of wealth belonging to the rich man in all times, our modern manners have added two others, which more peculiarly belong to ourselves,—the long train of servants, and the well appointed equipage. Neither of these are wanting to the establishment of the Chancellor and of his lady. In a word, a moralist might in this respect feel inclined to address him in words of the ancient satirist,—"With so much wit and learning, so much genius and knowledge, my Lord, why do you so unnecessarily travel out of yourself? Why do you seek from the voice of fools what you might command from your own resources? What is it to you to run the race of fashionable folly and expenditure, and to put luxury in countenance, by affording her a ready

example? It is not by these arts that you rose to the dignity which you occupy; and it is not by these arts that you will be enabled to found a family, which may hereafter maintain its rank amongst the nobles of the country."

The writer of the above memoir here begs leave to repeat, that he must not be understood, for a single moment, to entertain any wish to depreciate a character like that of Lord Lyndhurst. In executing the task which he has assigned himself, he follows one rule,—neither to deceive the public by flattery, nor to hurt the feelings of individuals by a vexatious publicity of foibles and failings belonging entirely to private life. He knows and feels it to be his duty to avoid malice as much as falsehood; and he requires not to be told, that in morals, as well as in law, truth is very deservedly to be regarded as a libel, where the publication of it, being unnecessary for any good purpose, trespasses against the obvious duties of charity, humanity, and good neighbourhood.—With respect to Lord Lyndhurst, we do not know a nobleman who has a better claim to the kind feelings of others, inasmuch as it is a fine trait in his character to feel this kindness for all around him.

LORD GODERICH,

FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY.

LORD GODERICH is another of those men whose immediate ancestors owe every thing to themselves. As a patrician family it is very recent, having been ennobled during the reign of his late Majesty only. The family were originally merchants, or rather traders, and they regard their founder to have been Mr. William Robinson, a citizen of York, about the year 1650. He was fortunate in his mercantile efforts, and being a resident in the city of York, and of opulent circumstances, he was elected mayor by his brother citizens. Nothing is known of him but that he was thus successful in trade, and was enabled to bequeath a considerable property to his family.

He was succeeded in this property by his son, who following, we presume, the same course of successful trade, added to the previous acquisitions of his father as a citizen of York. In this manner the family gradually rose into opulent circumstances and landed possessions; the trader becoming a merchant—the merchant a proprietor of a considerable property in land—and the landed proprietor a respectable country gentleman. This is one of the happy effects of our excellent constitution, that the path of honour is open

to every condition, and that the acquisition of wealth by skill and industry in commerce, manufactures, and even retail trade, leads to the first honours of the peerage. At the present day all the high dignities of the state are filled by the descendants of tradesmen, or by the sons of men in the several professions. The Lord Chancellor, as we have before had occasion to state, is the son of a painter,—the Lord Chief Justice of England, the son of a most respectable tradesman at Canterbury, whilst the first Minister of England is the lineal descendant of a Yorkshire tradesman.

As the family advanced in wealth it necessarily grew into importance, and was raised to the honour of the baronetage. The first baronet, Sir Frederick, died without any lineal heirs, and according to the terms of the patent the title became extinct. It was afterwards renewed in favour of William, the nephew of the last possessor. This gentleman became a baronet about the year 1700. His descendant, Sir Thomas, very greatly distinguished himself in his diplomatic career at Vienna and other courts; and his services were so appreciated by the Marquis of Bute, and the other leaders of the first administration of his late Majesty, George III., that he was raised to the peerage (by the name of Lord Grantham) in the year 1761. He was one of the first peers created by his late Majesty, and it is but justice to add, that no one better earned his title.

It was about this æra, we believe, that the family received a considerable addition to its wealth and consequence, by alliance with the family of Adderley—the gentleman who was Chancellor of the Exchequer in the time of the South Sea bubble. The estates of this family have since fallen to Miss Lawrence of Studley Park, the heir of whom (by the effect of this alliance) is Lord Grantham, or Goderich. This family possessed, as part of its hereditary property, the borough of Rippon, for which Mr. Robinson was returned in the first Parliament in which he sat. The Studley estate is one of the most beautiful properties in the country, and the possession of the borough of Rippon, through the connexion with Miss Lawrence, has been no inconsiderable aid in the advance of the Robinson family. In all periods of our history, it has been no small advantage for a family, or individual, to be the patron or possessor of a borough; without it Lord Goderich would certainly not have been what he now is.

One of the immediate ancestors of Lord Goderich was that Sir Thomas Robinson, who is mentioned in "Boswell's Life of Johnson," and in "Wraxall's Memoirs of his own Times," as having been one of the most eccentric characters of his age, and of such a tall, thin, rawbone shape and stature, as to have been popularly known by the name of "Long Robinson." He was an acquaintance of Dr. Johnson, and was well known in the

literary and fashionable world of that period. He had several children, some of them born at Vienna, and some in other foreign countries. He was a man of good talent, and in favour with his late Majesty in the earlier part of his reign.

Another member of the family, who, from his worth and talents, is entitled to some mention, was the late Mr. Wedell, from whom Lord Grantham takes his name of Wedell Robinson. This gentleman was a great traveller, and an eminent classical scholar and antiquarian. He passed much of his time in Italy, and appears to have been rather too much attached to the dilettanti studies of that country, having consumed more time in them, and made them more paramount objects, than belongs, in propriety, to the right judgment of an English gentleman. In Studley or Rippon Church there is a monument to this gentleman, which very warmly commemorates his character. He appears to have been an old family friend of Lord Goderich's father, and if we may judge from the records in the family, there was a long and strong friendship between them.

As the family of the Robinsons owed their entire elevation to the political course of the first Sir Thomas, it appears to have been a maxim in the family, that one of them should always dedicate himself to the public service, and, by duly qualifying himself for the House of Commons, be prepared, in due time, to be admitted to office. The borough of Rippon, which had fallen to Miss

Lawrence, (one of the daughters of Dr. Lawrence, who married the heiress of Mr. Aislabie), afforded the suitable opportunity, a family connexion happening to exist between the Robinsons and the Lawrences. Accordingly, Mr. Robinson had no sooner attained the age of twenty-three, than he was returned by Miss Lawrence, as one of her members for Rippon. This was about the year 1806 or 1807, when the death of Mr. Fox broke up his ministry. It is requisite to mention that the new ministry found it necessary to call a new Parliament, and that the nation, heartily weary of a whig administration, returned almost unanimously all the members who had taken part with the King in supporting the established religion of the country. It is rather extraordinary, that, though this interest, namely, the Anti-catholic, was what returned Mr. Robinson to Parliament in his outset in public life, and rendered him a favourite with the House and country, he has no sooner found himself in a high office by its aid, than he has deemed it prudent to veer round nearly to the opposite point, being now in almost all respects a whig minister. It is impossible not to regret this change; to say the truth, we should regret it more if we did not feel persuaded that the sentiments and feelings of the prime minister are effectually controlled by contrary sentiments and feelings in a higher place. It is a circumstance, however, of just surprise, that he who was ntroduced into Parliament as an aid to the new

ministry, which was formed upon the resignation of the Marquis of Lansdown in 1807, should be the colleague of that Marquis in 1827; and not only his colleague in office, but the ready and willing associate in the very principle (the Catholic question) which he was always understood to oppose.

Upon his first appearance in the House of Commons he became, as we have above stated, a general favourite with the House, and particularly with the agricultural and aristocratical interests, who, knowing the principles of his family, and the means to which they had owed their rise, naturally looked to Mr. Robinson as the advocate of what are called 'old principles,' such as the maintenance of the predominance of the landed interest, and the diminution of its burthen from taxation, by compelling commerce, manufactures, and interior trade to bear their share.

At the time of which we are speaking, the land-holders and the country in general began to entertain a strong and well grounded apprehension of a party at that time rather new in the state, but who have been since but too well known under the name of Political Economists. The administration of Lord Henry Petty had introduced this class of men into the English House of Commons, and, as far as he and his personal friends possessed the power, into the offices of Government. These persons, the leaders of whom were Mr. Ricardo and Mr. Horner, assisted by Mr.

Brougham and two or three other gentlemen, formed and educated under Scotch Professors, were more than suspected of being no friends to the landed interest, and were therefore regarded with just apprehension by the country gentlemen in the House of Commons. This body, therefore, hailed Mr. Robinson with great satisfaction, as he was understood to enter the House as the advocate of the landed interest, and the inflexible supporter of all the received principles in Church and State.

It was not, however, till the year 1812, that Mr. Robinson began to take share in the business of the House. By this time experience had in some degree divested him of the puerile style of oratory which rather ludicrously distinguished him when he entered Parliament. In his first essays, he appeared, indeed, rather too fresh from school, and could scarcely utter a sentence without fortifying it with some quotation from Ovid or Virgil. After a few years his taste has in some degree improved, though his speeches, even up to the present year, are too much in the style of a school-boy's theme, and abound in a pathos which excites any thing but sympathy. The truth is, that he had formed himself upon a wrong model, and contracted habits which time alone can remove. Up to the present day it requires no inconsiderable patience and courtesy to attend to speeches of lengthy common-place and mawkish sentiment. Feeling

is very well where it is not affected and extravagant.

At this period, or immediately afterwards, when the war took an entire new face, and was followed in quick succession by the expulsion of Napoleon from the throne of France, and by a general peace, Mr. Robinson was appointed Vice President of the Board of Trade, not so much indeed from any supposed aptitude of his talents for this situation, as because it was the first office of any consequence which became vacant. In the exercise of this office Mr. Robinson displayed both great activity and very competent talents. The Earl of Clancarty was President, and, like most of his predecessors in the same office, regarded the situation as a complete sinecure, and seldom attended the meetings of the board. It cannot, indeed, be disputed, that the whole board had passed into a collection of sinecure offices, and was totally useless for every object of the public service. Mr. Robinson gave an entire new character to the board; he considered that the object of its institution was to promote the commerce, manufactures, and interior trade of the country; and he resolved to exert all his personal efforts to fulfil this duty. He accordingly applied himself to the existing system of the navigation and commerce of the country, and eagerly availed himself of every aid to attain this knowledge. Like Lord Liverpool he is an unwearied reader; and every

pamphlet upon trade and politics might be found upon his table. Unhappily, the press was at this time too much occupied by the Scotch Economists and the writers of that school, and as Mr. Robinson did not, as yet, possess the necessary experience to know the very wide difference between theory and practice, he was mislead by these speculative writers. He took their principles by the gross, and forgot that a nation had other interests than mere cheap production. A nation, like an individual, may buy cheaper at a distance than at home; but a nation, like an individual, is bound to look to home interests and connexions, and support its own dependents before administering to the wealth of foreigners.

Unfortunately for Mr. Robinson's popularity, it fell to his lot to introduce into Parliament, a measure very generally odious, though supposed to be necessary for the maintenance of the landed interest—we speak of the Corn Bill of 1815. A surprising depression in prices, and consequently in rents, had followed, upon the return of peace; and indeed might have been expected by all those who suffered themselves to consider that such an event as a general peace had removed the largest customer, namely, the Government of the Country, from the Corn and Provision Market; that the supply, therefore, naturally exceeded the demand; and that the surplus necessarily reduced the price by overstocking the market. This was the common sense of the thing, and the sum and sub-

stance of the innumerable pamphlets which the press issued upon this alarming crisis in our agricultural condition. The landed Gentlemen were all eager for some measure which might protect their rents from further depression, by excluding all foreign Corn from the market. They argued very justly, though selfishly, that the natural effect of population, in a country where wages and employment enabled almost every one to marry, would gradually, but certainly, increase the demand for Corn, and therefore, if they could keep all foreign supply out, the prices must necessarily rise to the desired standard. Under this persuasion the landlords directed all their efforts to procure a bill, which, under the pretext of defending the public from irregular prices, and ensuring a large and competent home-growth and supply, might in fact confine the quantity of Corn in the market within such a limit, as might always secure the Landlords and Farmers a high price. The Farmers had, in truth, but little concern in the question—the interest at stake was, the high rents of the Landlords; for the rent of land must necessarily follow the prices of its produce.

Such were the principles of the celebrated Corn Bill, which Mr. Robinson had to introduce into the House of Commons in 1815. It is scarcely necessary to add, that the discussions of this bill were accompanied with riotous assemblies. A mob took possession of all the avenues to the House of Commons, and loudly cheered or

hissed all the members, according to their known votes and opinions upon the subject. The truth is, that the mob was as clear sighted with respect to its own interest as the landed interest was with respect to itself. The mob saw the true character of the bill and resented it accordingly. The civil power was wholly incompetent to protect the public peace, and it became necessary to call in the military.

In flying from the soldiers, the populace (for such it was) divided itself into separate bands, and each directed itself upon some one of the town-houses of the obnoxious members. One of these bands attacked and entered the house of Mr. Robinson, and proceeded to destroy his furniture, books, papers, and property of every description. They then vented their fury upon the doors and windows of the house, which according to the popular form, they gutted and much defaced.

Mr. Robinson procured a guard to protect his house against any further attacks, in which perhaps, though defensible upon general principles, he acted with less generosity and discretion than might have been anticipated. On a similar occasion, if we mistake not, Mr. Windham and Lord Castlereagh suffered the mob to destroy their houses, and then sought compensation from the county in the regular legal way, under the statute of George. Mr. Robinson, indiscreetly, had the military placed in his house, and the result was, that in a subsequent attack, several of the

mob were wounded, and two idle spectators killed by the fire of the soldiery,—a consequence which the defence of the house was not worth. One of the persons killed was a midshipman, and the other a woman of the name of Watson.

This unhappy result was mentioned in Parliament, in terms of too much severity, by one of the popular leaders of the day. Mr. Robinson rose upon the spot to vindicate himself, and clearly made out to the satisfaction of the House, that he had adopted this course in defence of his property. We must again say that this was true, but still the question arises, whether, in feelings so venial as were those of the populace at that period, the defence of a few chairs and tables was worth this cost of human life? We think not. We think that Mr. Robinson (the house having been already nearly demolished, as far as it was *breakable*) would have acted with a more generous and considerate prudence, if he had abandoned the shell of the house to its fate, and not saved it at the expense of human life. The question in all these cases is this—what is the good gained, and what is the cost? Here the good gained was, that some remains of furniture, which had not been moved, were saved—the cost, that two persons were killed and many wounded by the fire of the military.

From this period Lord Goderich was in the habit of speaking upon most public questions, and was always heard with attention by the House.

Though he has not the same readiness in business as the late Marquis of Londonderry, and is very short of him in his happy art of that pompous and nugatory phraseology, by which, when called upon to explain, he at the same time satisfied the letter of the call and eluded the spirit,—Mr. Robinson certainly exceeds the late Marquis in general knowledge, and in a certain warmth and sincerity of gentlemanly and honourable feelings, for which the House would never give the Marquis of Londonderry credit. Mr. Robinson's forte, as a speaker, is candour, honesty, and sincerity; his foibles are a propensity to common place, and too lively a remembrance, and too ready an application of "*Dulce & decorum est pro patriâ mori,*" and such like *exempla moralia* from his school-books. His practical judgment we believe to be much better than his taste, and the experience of life and business will doubtless correct what is still puerile and affected. Though we do not approve of his present whig associates, and though we cannot but apprehend the public consequences of this union, we do not hesitate to allow, that he is in every respect a superior man to the late Marquis of Londonderry. Less experienced, but more sincere—less versatile, but more direct—less courteous, but more to be depended upon.

One of his best speeches was upon the subject of the Foreign Enlistment Bill, which was introduced by the Attorney-General and opposed by Colonel Davis. The Colonel's two arguments

against the bill, were, the impolicy of not availing ourselves of the opportunity to increase our commercial intercourse, and the weakness of Spain, who could neither recover her colonies nor resent our interference. To this Mr. Robinson replied, that he thought the weakness of Spain was a very bad argument to induce a generous nation to abuse its own superior strength; and that, with respect to our commercial intercourse, it admitted only of one answer,—the proposed measure was unjust, and therefore, however useful, was not to be thought of. When he (Mr. Robinson) recollected the solemn treaties existing between Spain and England, he could not but pause before he consented to sacrifice the honour and good faith of the country to mere interest and sordid feelings. In his view, nothing on earth should be held so dear to a country as fidelity to its engagements.

Having now become a useful and active member of the ministry, and a ready speaker upon all occasions, the first Lord of the Treasury recommended him for the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer, at the commencement of the year 1823. The recommendation was approved by the King, and he was immediately appointed. The country, having at this time forgotten his share in the corn laws, saw his advancement with satisfaction, and the ministry gained strength by the accession of the new member to the cabinet. The truth is, that the landed gentlemen again became alarmed at the state of agriculture, and at the

measures reported to be in agitation, and they all rallied around Mr. Robinson as their advocate and protector.

Having been thus appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer, it became his duty, at the opening of the Session of 1824, to introduce his financial system. In this system he was rather unfortunate, and exhibited himself somewhat incompetent to the high office with which he was invested. In reducing the window-tax, he acted indeed wisely, and gained much deserved popularity. But he left untouched one of the most burthensome of all our taxes —the house-tax, a tax which beyond all others presses upon the inhabitants of towns and cities. He acted likewise upon true principles in reducing the taxes upon the raw materials of trade and manufacture, such as wool, silk, and cotton; as all such reductions necessarily increase the trade of the country, both by diminishing the price of the commodity to the consumer, and by requiring in the wholesale dealer a less capital to purchase stock and carry on trade. His reduction in the duty of wines was equally prudent and well conceived, upon another principle: it brought the article within the reach of a larger body of the people—enabling more persons to buy, and those who bought before to purchase more extensively, and by these means augmented at once the foreign trade of the country, and the revenue of the state. But in none of these notions was Mr. Robinson original, and where he attempted to be so, he disappointed

the expectations of the country. His reductions on the indirect taxes, generally, went only into the pockets of the wholesale dealers, as in the example of the leather-tax, in which the revenue lost every thing and the public gained nothing. It is but candid to acknowledge, that many of these wise and salutary reductions had been first suggested by the opposition, and that the merit of the invention, though not of the motive, which was only to embarrass the existing ministry, belonged to them.

In due time Mr. Robinson's first budget appeared, and contained such lofty anticipations as have exposed him to ridicule from the popular writers of the day. Mr. Robinson's error was founded in this principle, that he was not aware that the trade of the country had not returned within the channel, from which it had been violently raised by the extraordinary circumstances of the war. It required more than ten years for things to resume their former course, and during this period the tide of British commerce was necessarily upon the gradual ebb. We may be allowed to express a hope, that we have now reached the lowest point of its possible depression, and that henceforth it will be seen upon a slow but gradual increase, in proportion to the increasing population at home and abroad. It is a principle, indeed, never to be forgotten by one great class in the state, the landed interest, that the annual increase of population must always insure a gradual

rise of prices, and that when rents are once fixed at a fair standard, they may hereafter rise but can never fall. Let the constant remembrance of this fundamental principle allay all the apprehensions of the landed interest.

We had forgotten to mention, that a few years after he entered into public life, when about the age of thirty, Mr. Robinson addressed himself to Lady Sarah Hobard, a cousin of the late Marquis of Londonderry, and daughter of the Earl of Buckinghamshire. He had the good fortune to succeed with her ladyship, and obtain her in marriage. His domestic life with this lady is exemplary and affectionate in the highest degree. When they lost their first, and only child, (the only one at that time), Mr. Robinson suffered so much, as to have resolved to retire immediately from public life, and give himself no more concern to obtain wealth and honours now without any final aim. The Earl of Liverpool, and his other friends, used all their efforts to dissuade him from this purpose, and encountered much difficulty before they could succeed. The public principles of Mr. Robinson, his want of firmness of mind, and his versatile concessions to the whigs, it is impossible to approve; but we should deem it a want of candour not to acknowledge, that in private and domestic life he appears to be an amiable and worthy character.

Upon Mr. Canning's becoming minister, Mr. Robinson was raised to the peerage, that he might

take the lead in the Lords,—an office for which he was not unfit, as the course of events had now removed all superior men. Perhaps, it would have been fortunate for his future reputation, if he had not consented to act with this minister, and had retired when the Whigs were even partially admitted into the cabinet. Mr. Robinson, now Lord Goderich, had been hitherto reputed one of the strongest defenders of all the established principles in church and state; his rich and respectable relation, Miss Lawrence, had, we presume, sent him into Parliament under that persuasion and with those objects in view. His union with Mr. Canning, and still more, his extraordinary coalition with the Whigs, has totally disappointed all these hopes, and he is now in the same situation, so ludicrously but justly described by Sir Thomas Lethbridge, as that of a bird who has unwittingly hatched the eggs of a cuckoo instead of her own,—she has given life to those, whose first use of it will be to destroy her. If Lord Goderich is not eventually manœuvred out of office, or at least out of all effectual power, by the Whigs, he will have more good fortune than we anticipate for him. In the meantime, he is compelled by the very union with them not to oppose, if not to promote, all their favourite aims against the ecclesiastical establishments of the country. The church and country will probably have to thank him for a bill which will effectually reduce marriage to a merely civil contract, and thereby, in no very long portion of

time, diminish the salutary reverence with which that holy obligation is now regarded. May the good sense of the nation unite against the introduction of these new principles, in a country which has been rendered what it is by its steady adherence to the religion and morality of our ancestors.

During Mr. Canning's life, Lord Goderich was Secretary to the Colonies, and the representative of the ministry in the House of Lords. Here he was successfully opposed by the party of his old comrades, arrayed against him under the Duke of Wellington. The Corn Bill was thrown out by this party, and Lord Goderich encountered an opposition for which he was manifestly not prepared. The new Chancellor, Lord Lyndhurst, contrived, about the same time, to array much popular feeling against him, by the part he so imprudently took in speaking and voting for Lord Lansdown's bill for Unitarian marriages. The general result of these measures has been, that the public mind, in the country in particular, has become very strongly disposed to take part with the opposition, and to form a union with it in defence of the acknowledged principles of the constitution. In the course of the ensuing Session, the strength of this party will be seen.

Upon the death of Mr. Canning, Lord Goderich succeeded him in office, being appointed by his Majesty First Lord of the Treasury, an office, for

which, we do not hesitate to say, he is wholly incompetent: He is totally deficient in the necessary firmness of mind, and, we very strongly suspect, in the necessary knowledge. In a word, we believe him to be an honest and well meaning statesman, but possessing that rate of ability which will always render him the easy tool of his more subtle and able confederates. He is not aware of the principles, the gradual introduction of which he will be compelled to facilitate, nor of the final objects, for which he is unwittingly preparing the way. He is not aware that he is the instrument, instead of the leader, of the existing ministry; that, one after another, he will be compelled to admit all the Whigs into the active offices of administration,—and that when this object shall be sufficiently accomplished, he will suddenly find himself, to his utter astonishment, reduced to such a cypher, as to hold his place only so long as he shall continue to conduct himself according to the good pleasure of his masters. He will find, in a word, that, one after another, he has admitted so many secret enemies into the garrison, that they have become masters of the fort,—and that it has become his part to obey in silence, lest they should throw him over the wall.

In concluding our memoir of this nobleman, and for the purpose of giving a brief account of that family seat, which was the cradle of his race, and the first acquisition of his ancestor, the Mayor

of York, we cannot do better than add a short extract from a tour, in which one of our Summer Travellers made a passing visit to this place.

"Having left Harrowgate in the morning, and travelled a distance of 13 miles through Knaresborough and Boroughbridge, we reached," says the tourist, "Newby Park, the seat of the Robinsons, and now of Wedell Robinson, Lord Grantham. Upon coming into sight of the house, we found a brick edifice, on the banks of the river Aire,—rather low in its situation, but surrounded by pastoral and sylvan scenery. We had no difficulty in being admitted to see it, and we found it well worth the trouble.

"As we entered, we of course passed through the hall, where we saw two fine pictures,—the one *Cows and Sheep*, by Rosa de Tivoli; the other, a *St. Margaret*, by Carracci. From the hall we entered the breakfast-room, where we saw the portraits of the first Lord Grantham, grandfather of the present Lord,—of the second Lord, his father, and of the late William Wedell, Esq. contemplating a Cleopatra. Mr. Wedell's countenance is singularly pleasing. Thence we passed into the library, and next into the drawing-room; this latter room is a very fine apartment, 40 feet by 20, and is hung with beautiful tapestry. The dining-room, into which we next passed, is still larger than the drawing-room, being 60 feet by 20, and hence we pass into the gallery of statues. It would be tedious to enumerate these,—it will be

sufficient to say, that there are statues of the Emperors Severus, Geta, and Caracalla, Galatea, Epicurus, Brutus (the murderer of Cæsar), and Faustina. The Robinson family possess these busts by gift or bequest from Mr. Wedell, who passed his life in these pursuits.

"From Newby, we passed to Rippon, and visited its church. We were here much struck with a very fine monument to the friend and benefactor of the Robinsons, the late Mr. Wedell, from whom Lord Grantham takes his name. The monument is inscribed with the following words:—

To the Memory of
WILLIAM WEDELL, Esq. of NEWBY,
In whom every virtue that ennobles the mind was united with every elegance that adorns it. This monument is dedicated by his widow.

Whom what awaits, while yet she strays
Along the lonely vale of days?
A pang to secret sorrow dear,
A sigh, an unavailing tear,
Till time shall every grief remove,
With life, with memory, and love.

He died 1789.

"From Rippon (a borough of Miss Lawrence's, a connexion of the Robinson family) we passed to Studley Park, the former seat and property of the Aislabies, one of whom was Chancellor of the Exchequer in the time of the South Sea Bubble. This is one of the finest seats in the county, and a specimen of the stiff classical gardening. We ap-

proached the house through a very fine avenue, a mile in length, and having noble trees. The house is a tasteless mixture of modern masonry, and Gothic; but the grounds and prospects, if they had been left to themselves, are very beautiful. After a very short look at the house, we entered a recluse path in the park, and followed it till we reached a lake of about eleven acres of water. Around this pond the banks rise rapidly on every side, darkened from top to bottom by majestic woods. From hence the circuit round the grounds is four miles. We entered a second walk, which opens a view to the *half moon* water, and the *canal;* two names which express the tasteless forms into which the water is cast. Both of these waters are backed by lofty and thick woods, from the midst of which here and there rise towers or little temples. In a word, nothing can be more pitiful and tasteless than the use which is made of grounds so truly beautiful.

"The Abbey is, however, worthy the notice of every traveller, though every thing has been done to spoil its effects. We approached it by a walk called after *Ann Bulleyn,* and soon entered a small wood, called *Robin Hood* Wood, because it was the scene of a severe battle between that noted outlaw and a friar of Fountain Abbey. The Abbey, the clustered pillars of which are still most beautiful, was built about the year 1200, and is now a very noble ruin. We viewed it standing at one extremity,—the vista is thence very picturesque, con-

sisting of a range of ancient ruins, pillars, and arches, three hundred and sixty feet long, finely intermingled with wood. At the termination of this stands one of the towers, two of which formerly adorned the western side. The northern one now only remains, lifting its venerable head to the height of one hundred and seventy-four feet. This is divided into three parts by two bands or little projections of stone, each inscribed with sentences that are now easily made out—they are as follow:—on the East side, *Soli Deo Jes. Chr. honor et gloria in sec. sec^m.* The others are of the same import. A door leading out of the southern aisle conducted us into the cloister garden, the Abbot's garden, and the extensive cloisters of this noble Abbey, which was founded in the 12th century, for Cestertian Monks, and possessed an immense revenue in the reign of Henry VIII."

We have been the more diffuse in the above account, as, according to public report, the succession to this property will devolve to Lord Goderich,—but whether by bequest or by regular descent we know not. The present possessor is Miss Lawrence, one of the co-heiresses of the late Dr. Lawrence. This lady, as we have before stated, is the proprietor of the adjacent borough of Rippon, which first returned Lord Goderich to Parliament. The other member, Mr. Shadwell, a brother of Dr. Shadwell, a physician at Southampton, has lately vacated his seat, by being promoted to the rank of Vice

Chancellor. This gentleman owes his rise in life to the powerful patronage of Miss Lawrence, and through her of Lord Goderich.

We have now nothing to add to the above notes on the public and private life of Lord Goderich, except that a recent addition to his family has happily removed the melancholy under which he was suffering, occasioned by the loss of his first and only living child. Though we cannot entertain any confidence in the party with which Lord Goderich is now acting, inasmuch as we know that their public principles are directly adverse to the established institutions of the country, we have not hesitated to assert our persuasion, that no one can intend more honestly than Lord Goderich. He wants, as we have said, two qualities only to render him a most valuable public character,—firmness of mind, and a wider knowledge and stronger apprehension of the fundamental principles of our Constitution in Church and State. Under these defects, he is too easily led to regard what is really principal as only secondary and non-essential; and, under this fatal error, to concede so much till he shall put all in danger. Knowing, as we do, his country connexions, we cannot believe for a moment that he would wilfully assent to any measure which would endanger the Ecclesiastical establishments of the country; yet we see him dividing with the Marquis of Lansdown and Lord Holland in favour of a Bill, (the Bill for Unitarian Marriages), the success of

which would not only degrade one of the most solemn ceremonies of civil life, but would certainly pave the way for other and more vital encroachments on the Established Church.

Lord Goderich is now about forty-six years of age — and has only one son, now an infant. There is a very general expectation, at the time of our concluding this memoir, that his Lordship will only retain his situation till the Session of Parliament shall commence.

SIR JAMES SCARLETT,

HIS MAJESTY'S ATTORNEY GENERAL.

WE have before had occasion to observe, that it is the great merit of the British Constitution, that the portals of honour and nobility are open to every class of the people,—that the first distinctions in the state are prizes for which all may enter the lists, and that the race is rendered by the control of circumstances nearly as fair as it is open. If a man's industry and ability be such as to render him useful, the very interest of the Government will cause him to be called forward into the public service, and an opportunity will thus be afforded to the happy adventurer to attain the first dignities in the state. The successful

Advocate in the Courts of Law will naturally be sought as the most promising pleader on the benches of Parliament. The Solicitor and Attorney-General must be chosen from the bar, and will generally be chosen from those persons, whose abilities and success have rendered them the foremost in their profession. It does not indeed always follow that the readiest advocate is the most effective debater, and that a knowledge of law is accompanied by that firmness and character of mind, and by those large and comprehensive views of general politics, which are required to constitute the able statesman. But it must be confessed, that all these things are comparative, and that they may shine in the second rank, who would be totally eclipsed by the superior brilliancy of lights belonging to the first. In the age of Pitt, Burke, Thurlow, and Kenyon, such abilities as those of Sir James Scarlett would certainly not have raised him to a high rank in the state, and his known political principles would as certainly not have recommended him to their patronage. But it has been his good fortune to live in other times. It may be a matter of doubt, whether the country can be deemed equally happy in the prospect of such a future Chief Justice.

Sir James Scarlett is by birth a West Indian, and was born in Jamaica, about the year 1760, the year in which the late king came to the throne. The family have been West Indians for several generations, and was probably one of those which,

about the time of Cromwell, left England for Jamaica, in search of an independence, to be procured by their own industry. One of the brothers of Sir James Scarlett was for a long time a practising barrister in that Island, and was as successful there as his brother is in England. When the present Duke of Manchester became Governor of Jamaica, he found Mr. Scarlett, the brother of Sir James, in such extensive practice, that, upon a vacancy occurring a short time afterwards, he appointed him the Chief Justice of the Island. He now holds this situation, and is said to discharge its duties with activity and very creditable ability. He possesses, we may presume, what appears to characterize the family,—a good fund of common-sense, and a mind more assiduously applied to amass a fortune than to expend it. In a country like England, or Jamaica, it is next to an impossible circumstance, that a person of this character, accompanied with a resolute and active industry, should not succeed in accumulating wealth; the first step with them is no sooner insured than money begets money, and the increase is only stopped with the life of the unwearied labourer.

Amongst West Indian families, who can afford the expense, it has long been the practice to send their children for education to England, and usually at an early age. Young Scarlett was sent to London according to this custom, and became a member of one of the private schools,

with which the metropolis is surrounded. The choice does not appear to have been well made, as Sir James is notoriously more celebrated for his law than for his latin, and may be regarded as rather deficient in classical attainments, if we may form our judgment from the total absence of any tone or spirit of this kind in his numerous speeches. Having spent three or four years in this private school, he was removed to the University of Cambridge, and passed through it with sufficient attainments to procure his degree.—During his course at the University, from about the year 1780 to 1784, he neither sought nor gained any distinction,—he satisfied himself with proceeding to his batchelor's degree, and left the contest for prizes and honours to those who deemed them worth their pursuit. To repeat our former observation, he appears very early to have considered that life had but one suitable object, and that the end of living was to grow rich. Having fixed upon this object, he retained it steadily in his view, and Dr. Franklin himself, were he now living, could not desire a more full and complete example of his Prudent Man.

Upon leaving the University, Mr. Scarlett was entered a student of the Inner Temple, and there began to eat his commons and prepare for active business at the bar. He applied himself in earnest to the attainment of the necessary knowledge, as the prizes of the law were of a very different nature from those of the college. He had the

fortune to live at a period when the law was less incumbered by books of reports than in the present time, and he had the good sense and sound judgment which enabled him to read with effect He did not need to be told, that the most valuable law was that which was required by the daily course of the business of life, and that it belonged to the antiquarian, rather than to the practising barrister, to lose his hours in reading authors who contained nothing bearing upon the business of the day. He therefore troubled himself as little with Lord Coke as with Viner, Ventris, and Lord Somers, and, we will venture to say, did not even begin his *report reading* higher up than with Durnford and East. This, in fact, is the characteristic of Sir James Scarlett as a man and a lawyer,—an acute and sagacious perception of what is really necessary and useful, and a happy contempt and thorough rejection of whatever does not administer to the main chance; learning and knowledge, for themselves, were never objects of ambition to Mr. Scarlett. There is no person in the present day who has strictly and systematically confined his labour to that portion of knowledge which promises a good pecuniary return. We believe we may add, that there is no barrister of any eminence in any of the courts, who can boast of being so little incumbered with knowledge beyond his profession as Mr. Scarlett. He affords a singular example how little beyond law is necessary to constitute a good advocate.

Upon being called to the bar, he made choice of the Northern Circuit, and went the Quarter Sessions. Perhaps nothing is better calculated to enable a man to acquire readiness and dexterity as an examining counsel, than the practice at Sessions; and no theatre is larger, or affords a greater variety of business, than the Sessions within the compass of the Northern Circuit. The Liverpool Sessions are inferior to those of London only, and a large portion of practice there is followed by good success in the courts of Westminster. The heavy expense of the Northern Circuit is another advantage in favour of those who can afford it; we believe there is scarcely an example of any barrister entirely failing in practice, who has been able to select this circuit, and to persevere in it through a long series of years. Patience, however, is necessary to ultimate success, and so Mr. Scarlett found it, as he was some time before he was fortunate enough to make himself known. His acuteness, however, had its reward at last; and as Mr. Law, Mr. Topping, Mr. Park, were successively advanced or removed, Mr. Scarlett, by becoming a third or fourth leader, began to increase in practice. He was immeasurably distant from the force of mind, the powerful understanding, and the very extensive knowledge of Mr. Law, and we think could not have been equal to Topping; but he possessed a readiness, an acuteness, and a penetration, which, within their own range, were not common qualities. No one better

sees upon what point a case hinges,—no one has a better memory of what has occurred in the courts within his own practice, and therefore no one is better qualified to *talk out* a case, as it is termed,—that is to say, to state its main points colloquially, and to argue it colloquially in answer to the *obiter* remarks of the Judge. This is, in truth, Mr. Scarlett's forte, as that of cross examination used to be the forte of Baron Garrow. Of large general principles Sir James Scarlett appears to make no use; to say the truth, he seems not to know them. But he employs the knowledge he possesses to such good account, and it is so sufficient for the daily business of the courts, that it is not a subject of much surprise, that he neither seeks nor desires to know more.

With these ready qualities, Mr. Scarlett gradually rose into business, and his application became so steady as to recommend him to every attorney who had once employed him. There was no remission of professional labour, from whatever cause, with Mr. Scarlett. The attorney had only to be ready with his fee, and Mr. Scarlett was ready to advise or to plead. He was as constant at court as the Judge, and never left it till its rising. He never seemed to know what recreation meant, or to be enabled to conceive any other pleasure than what arose from an attention to business, and from reaping the increasing harvest of briefs and cases.

In the year 1816, having attained to a degree of

business which warranted his elevation, the late Chancellor gave him a Silk Gown,—a circumstance which necessarily added to his practice, and designated him, in any future change of parties, as a person fit to be promoted. As yet, he had not ventured to come forward in public life, but his increasing practice at last excited the ambition of entering into Parliament. He made his first attempt at Lewes, in Sussex; but the Whig interest had over-rated their strength, and he encountered a signal defeat. He returned, we believe, to a new contest in a subsequent Parliament, but the voters still preferred the Constitution of the country, as in Church and State established, and for a long series of years ably administered by the Pitt party, to the new-fangled theories of the Edinburgh Reviewers, and their pupil and associate Sir James Scarlett. Again, therefore, he was signally defeated.

But his talents as an advocate were too distinguished not to excite the most favourable anticipations on the part of the Whigs. They were resolved to bring him into Parliament, and an application, we believe, was accordingly made to Lord Fitzwilliam. His Lordship assented, and Mr. Scarlett being recommended by him to the electors of Peterborough, and being supported by the Wentworth interest, he was returned into Parliament for that borough.

Here, however, he disappointed the expectations of his friends and party, and, in a great de-

gree, those of the public. They had soon occasion to learn, that very different qualities were required for the successful advocate, and for an able Parliamentary speaker. In the House of Commons Mr. Scarlett had to encounter the best educated men in the kingdom, and had to encounter them without equal arms. He had to speak upon principles without ever having acquired the faculty of generalization, or perhaps without knowing that such a faculty existed. He had to reply to speeches abounding in images and allusions to books and topics of which he knew nothing, and had to argue with some attention to that scholastic method of which he knew neither the names nor the forms. Accordingly, he seldom spoke without laying himself open to some jest or ridicule upon this subject, and therefore, latterly, with his usual discretion and sound common-sense, he scarcely ventured to speak at all.

Upon one subject, he came forward as the introducer of a bold and most important measure, the reform of the Poor Laws. It is notorious, that our present system of Poor Laws is open to three main objections. In the first place, its actual amount is a very heavy burthen upon some of the agricultural parishes. Secondly, it is more than a matter of reasonable doubt, whether the relief to the industrious poor bears any proportion to the actual amount of the money levied. And thirdly, the circumstance of being able in all events to resort to the parish, has in too many

instances had an obviously bad effect upon the character of the poor. The great object in all attempts to improve the system, must be to unite the relief of the poor with the discouragement of pauperism,—to afford adequate relief to actual poverty, without removing that apprehension of distress, which is necessary, by the very constitution of the world, to animate industry, and terrify sloth. Mr. Scarlett's Bill had two main provisions,—the one, to take the real amount of the Poor-rates at the time of passing the Bill, as the maximum which was never to be exceeded; the second, to exclude the children of all persons marrying after the passing of the Bill from having any right to parochial relief. It must be confessed, that this Bill would have become an effectual relief to the richer classes of the country against the burthen of the Poor Laws, but the proposed remedy was undoubtedly too abrupt and violent. Mr. Scarlett had not the requisite powers to advocate the expediency of a Bill of this nature in the British Parliament, and if we remember rightly, he could not succeed in carrying it to a second reading.

Upon the death of Mr. Smyth, one of the members for Cambridge, Mr. Scarlett proposed himself as a representative of that University. Here again he experienced a most signal defeat,—a failure so complete, as we trust will induce him never to repeat the attempt upon the same ground. The University must forget its own best interests,

if in any change of parties it can return Sir James Scarlett as its representative.

In matters of finance, which in fact constitute the art of government in all civilized nations, and more particularly in our own, Sir James Scarlett is deficient, and shewed this deficiency in a strong point of view, when he undertook to oppose the plans of Lord Bexley, at that time Mr. Vansittart, for supporting the public credit of the country. To Mr. Vansittart the kingdom is indebted for two measures, which, in times of very imminent peril, may be said to have saved the country from a shock which would have involved thousands in irretrievable ruin. In the commencement of the last whig administration, the Marquis of Lansdown, who was at that time Lord Henry Petty, having become acquainted in Scotland with the race of the Edinburgh reviewers, invited several of their most endless talkers to London, and amongst them the late Mr. Horner. By the united efforts of the Whigs this gentleman was brought into Parliament, and signalized his entry therein by a string of financial resolutions, the substance of one of which was, that the Bank of England note no longer represented the value of its denomination, but had become so much depretiated in the market of the world as to have given rise to two prices—a cash price, and a paper price for commodities. Extraordinary as this may appear, these resolutions were not only put,

but very nearly carried, in the House of Commons, and this at a period when there were afloat in the country nearly thirty millions of this currency, so alleged to be depretiated. If the resolutions had been carried, and they were supported by the whole strength of the Whig party, the event would have been the entire ruin of the credit of the Bank of England, and therein such a shock to public credit, as in its consequences must have affected every interest in the State. Mr. Vansittart foresaw these consequences, and in one of the most argumentative speeches ever delivered in the House, procured the rejection of the dangerous resolution, a service by which he well deserved the peerage with which his Majesty has honoured him.

The second eminent public measure of Mr. Vansittart, and which was opposed by Mr. Scarlett, was the appropriation of five millions of our annual revenue as a sinking fund; that is to say, raising every year five millions beyond the expenditure of the kingdom, and employing that surplus as a sinking fund on the national debt. Mr. Scarlett could not be brought to understand the obvious utility of such a security to the national creditor, against any occasional deficit of the revenue. The receipt of the year had sometimes fallen as much as ten per cent. upon the whole revenue, and if two or three years of such deficiency had succeeded each other, the dividends could not have been paid in a manner so as to

keep up the public confidence. Mr. Scarlett, however, gave his decided opposition to this most salutary measure, but happily for the country he could not obtain the confidence of the House. It was soon seen that politics were not his forte, and as a partisan he sunk to his proper level.

Throughout all the whig measures of the same period, Mr. Scarlett was always to be found as a voter, though not as a speaker. He seemed to have embraced whiggism with all his heart, and was a ready opponent of every measure which gave, as he imagined, an increase of strength or influence to the crown at the expense of the people. We say, at the expense of the people, for, with the usual craft of his party, he has always identified the name and interests of the people with the interests of that selfish and overbearing aristocracy, which now, as always, constituted the whig party. He, and the other instruments of this party, have always carefully concealed, that the best and surest supporters of the true rights and interests of the people, have been those successive administrations, which, having no other dependence than upon their merits and popular character, have always administered the Government upon its constitutional principles, carefully maintaining the predominance of the Established Church, and the due rights and prerogatives of the Crown. But what has always been the character of a whig administration, and what have always been its acts? Its character has ever

been that of a faction composed of the united strength of all the high aristocratic families; and when the possession of power has been added to their own original and independent strength, the result has always been, to render them such a stern, unyielding, overbearing party, that neither King nor people have been able to tolerate. And what have always been their acts? In the only administration in which we have seen them in power, they found the property-tax five per cent. and raised it to ten, and by their proposed tax on private breweries attempted to introduce the excise into every family-house in the kingdom.

Upon the recent change in administration, Sir Charles Wetherell retired, and Mr. Canning, having the opportunity of nominating an Attorney-General, recommended Mr. Scarlett, with whom fortune had thrown him into some previous communication, which had led to intimacy. In one point of view, Sir James Scarlett and Mr. Canning had a strong resemblance; neither of them was ever suspected of being imprudently attached to their political principles; neither of them was so stiff an adherent to a certain set of principles, as not to concede at the call of a manifest personal interest and convenience. No minister could have been better suited with an Attorney-General. There was a degree of worldliness and dexterous management about both of them, which had already very closely united them together; and if

Mr. Canning had lived, the union would have been still more close. It was, probably, under the advice, and with the aid of Sir James Scarlett, that Mr. Canning made such a selection of the Whig party, as effectually neutralized the main body, whilst he dexterously avoided extending his selection to those, who, under whatever name, and with whatever conditions they had been admitted, would have eventually become masters and leaders. Mr. Canning could not have a better guardian for the purpose of averting this evil than Sir James. Like Mr. Canning himself, Sir James had no objection to seeking aids and instruments from all quarters, and regarded any inconvenient principles which might stand in the way of such a union, as Sir Robert Walpole used to regard them. But Mr. Canning himself could not be more jealous of leaders, or even equal competitors, than his friend Sir James Scarlett; and though worldliness was the character of both, Sir James appears to have exceeded his friend in this useful feature.

A very few words will enable the reader to form a due estimate of what the Government and country owe to Sir James Scarlett.

As a public character, Sir James Scarlett may be regarded in three main points of view,—as a barrister, as a member of Parliament, and as a Whig Attorney-General in a Tory administration.

As a successful barrister, we have already had

occasion to state, that his peculiar talent consists in the extent and readiness of his *practical* knowledge of whatever is required for the current business of the courts. In this respect, he is certainly unequalled by all his contemporaries, and he may attribute his success in life entirely to this acquisition. Upon his entrance at the bar, he had rendered himself master of all the reports from Lord Mansfield up to his own time, and had probably, like Mr. Justice Bayley, reduced all their substance into small manuals and digests, which were always at hand when the occasion required them. His long practice at the bar has added very greatly to this stock of the *law of the day*, and the necessary consequence is, that great as is the variety of life, and numerous as are the forms into which its affairs may be thrown by different combinations of circumstances, it is scarcely probable that a case can arise in which Mr. Scarlett will find himself wholly at a loss. This readiness, as we have above observed, gives a peculiar character to his management of a cause. He knows at once its weak and strong points; presses the one with a sure effect, and urges all that can be adduced to obviate the solid objections to which his cause is exposed,—well knowing, however, the force to which the objection is entitled, and therefore never absurdly persisting against the sense and feelings of the court. Where his cause is good, no one states its strength with more brevity and

neatness, and he therefore accomplishes his business at once. Where a cause is weak, no one produces with more effect whatever seeming advantages it may happen to possess; and, upon seeing that the court understands its real nature, no one is more dexterous in declining to persevere without seeming to abandon his client. In a word, he is in this respect a very strong and lively example of an able advocate for the daily business of the courts: But here his praise must terminate. Beyond what is necessary for this purpose, he neither possesses, nor appears to claim, any knowledge. We have heard of an eminent barrister who never reads the newspapers of the day, deeming it so much lost time, which might be better occupied in reading a brief. We are very strongly inclined to believe, that, for the last forty years of his life, Mr. Scarlett has scarcely read a book of any kind, or forgotten for a single hour his early and resolute purpose of adding one guinea to another by an unbroken and undivided attention to his business. If life were given for no other purpose than to accumulate fortune, Sir James would be entitled to the first degree of praise. But whilst it must be known and felt that it has other and better objects, we must confine our praise within its exact limit; that is to say, we must acknowledge that we do not know a man who is more diligent in his business than Sir James, and who, as to his own object, reaps a greater reward from

such diligence. We sincerely wish that we could say more,—we wish that such creditable talents, and such a constant and laudable course of unwearied industry, were dignified by a union with other objects besides that of accumulation, and that Sir James could see the beauty of generosity, as much as he appears to see the charms of diligence.

As a legislator, Sir James has the defects which might be anticipated from what is said above; he wants the comprehensive knowledge which is required for these functions. He seems utterly unread in what may be called the ethics and philosophy of the schools; he does not know even that portion of the established writers upon these subjects, which all men allow to be necessary to compose a competent preparation for the higher departments of public life. We would not require him, indeed, to enumerate the ten predicaments or the three predicables, but he is nearly the only man in his high station to whom almost by name Aristotle, Aldrich, Domat, Barbeyrac, Grotius, are utterly unknown. The business of legislation does not belong to a man of this character, and accordingly he never attempts it without failing. The late and the present Lord Chancellors were very deeply and exactly learned in all this preliminary knowledge. Sir James Scarlett and the late Lord Gifford are rare examples of success in high station, with so little obligations to learning and the schools.

As a Whig Attorney-General, Sir J. Scarlett is entitled to one very great degree of praise,—that of a prudent and considerate lenity in wielding the large powers of his office. He appears to be no friend to the prerogative of criminal information, and has not, we believe, filed more than one since he has been in office. He seems, indeed, in this respect, to observe a due medium between that pernicious apathy to the great interests of the country, which has certainly characterised some of our Attorney-Generals, and that stern and imprudent rigour which always arrays the popular feelings on the part of those who are prosecuted. It will not admit a doubt, that no government can stand against that audacious system of libel and blasphemy, which a few years since disgraced this metropolis; and we are almost inclined to say, that the forbearance of the law officers of the Crown was carried to a mischievous excess. We have reason to know, that all the country population were strongly and generally disgusted with this atrocious course of blasphemy and sedition; and that it was a subject of great surprise, that it was so long tolerated. It gives us much pleasure to be enabled to add, that whilst Sir James Scarlett regards the King's prerogative of criminal information as a weapon to be used rather *in terrorem*, than to be in constant exercise, he has still a due feeling for what is due to the establishments of the country.

In private life, Sir James appears to be a man

of great gentleness of manners, and of a very pleasing courtesy. To say the truth, his family, as we have been informed, have very little of his company, and less of his conversation; the calls of his business being so urgent, that he has scarcely taken his seat at the dinner table before he is preparing to return to chambers. He has a family of sons and daughters; one of the latter is married to Mr. Campbell, a gentleman who promises to succeed Sir James in his extent of practice, and whose talents well deserve that large business which he already possesses.

Sir James Scarlett is about sixty, but appears much younger. He is one of those men, who, to speak colloquially, wear well, being addicted to no excess, and having an easy temper and a pleasant humour. He is entirely wrapped up in his profession; we regret to add, that he seems to live for no other purpose. So far as diligence is laudable, he is unquestionably entitled to a high degree of praise; more we cannot say.

THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWN,

HIS MAJESTY'S SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

IT is an observation equally just for its truth, and characteristic of the English Constitution above all systems of government, that the ranks of the English nobility are almost entirely filled by new men. It was a remark of one of our historians, even in his own time, that there was then but one of the immediate descendants of the barons, who had accompanied William the Conqueror into England. The present list of the British Peerage is composed of men, who owe their rise from the middle classes of society to their success in life. The army, the navy, and the bar, have each contributed at least their equal share. Arts, manufactures, and even successful trade, may enumerate many of their members now honoured with the most splendid titles, and even learning is not without its representative. The family of Petty is a celebrated example of the value of talents and industry in a popular government. The fifth ancestor, in the ascent, of the present Marquis of Lansdown was a respectable clothier, at Romsey, in Hampshire, living near the present seat of Lord Palmerston. The successful industry of this tradesman, in the reign of Charles the First, was the origin of the future splendid fortunes of his great grandson.

William Petty, the son of this fortunate man, whose name was Anthony Petty, was born in the town of Romsey, in the year 1623, and educated in the grammar school there. He took great delight whilst a boy, like the present Lord Lyndhurst, in spending his time in mechanical pursuits, and imitating all the workmen he saw in their respective trades, which he did with so much effect, that at twelve years of age he could work both as a carpenter and smith. He was equally quick in acquiring what was taught at the grammar school, so that at the age of 15, he had attained a very creditable knowledge of Greek, Latin, and French, and had learned as much of geometry and astronomy, as was useful to navigation. About the age of twenty-one, he was sent by his father with a small stock of goods to Caen, and thence proceeded to Paris, where he studied medicine, with the purpose of becoming a physician. In the year 1619, when he was twenty-six years of age, he repaired to Oxford, entered himself of Brazen Nose College, and in a short time afterwards became a fellow and took his degree as a Doctor of Physic. Being now master of £500, he went to Ireland, where he was made physician to the army, by the Parliament, with an allowance of twenty shillings per day, in which post he continued till the year 1659, gaining by his practice £4000 per annum. In December, 1654, he entered into a contract for remeasuring the grants to the soldiers in Ireland, in consequence of their

suppressing the rebellion by which he gained 6000*l.*, and further improved his own estate, by purchasing soldiers' debentures. In January, 1658, he was elected member for West Loe, in Cornwall, in the Parliament summoned by Richard Cromwell; and after the Restoration he was introduced to Charles the Second, and immediately knighted by him. This eminent man, for he was justly entitled to the appellation on the score of talents, died in his house in Piccadilly, December 16, 1687, of a gangrene in the foot, occasioned by the gout, and was buried in his native town of Romsey. In his last will, which is a very curious and characteristic document, he estimates his landed estate in England and Ireland, at £6,500. per annum; and his personal estate at £45,000.

Sir William Petty left a daughter, the heiress of his fortune, who married a Mr. Thomas Fitzmaurice, an Irish gentleman of the Leinster family.

Upon Mr. Fitzmaurice's marriage with Miss Petty, he was created Earl of Kerry. His second son by this marriage, Mr. John Fitzmaurice Petty, (the grandfather of the present Marquis), was created Earl of Shelburne, by George the Second, in the year 1753. In the year 1784, the son of this nobleman, the father of the present Marquis, was created Marquis of Lansdown.

It is scarcely necessary to add, that this nobleman, the father of the present, though not entitled to be denominated a man of distinguished talents, was equally removed from being a mere

ordinary nobleman,—he was in fact a man of good information and great industry, and would have been more esteemed, had not his reputation been injured by a character for intrigue and management unworthy of his rank and even of his abilities. The public could never pardon him for the part he took in the coalition ministry, and the reserve and offensive singularity of his private life deprived him, we believe, of private friendship. Many of the nobility of his own time were, however, much indebted to him,—he had made several of them peers, and was always a ready patron to men of talents. Nothing, however, could render him popular. The fact we believe to be, that, in a monarchical, a protestant and a christian community, he was generally regarded to be not very warmly disposed in favour of our monarchical, protestant, or ecclesiastical system, or, in other words to have been infected in no small degree with the corrupt philosophy of the day. He had entrusted his eldest son to be educated under two dissenters, Drs. Priestley and Price, and it may be easily imagined, that under neither of them could he have imbibed any reverence either for church or state. Neither king nor people could forget this circumstance, nor indeed ought they to have forgotten it; and therefore, the late Marquis never held a higher popular reputation than he in fact deserved. The king, after one experiment, had no farther inclination to entrust the interests of the crown and country to the avowed friend of

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Dr. Priestley, and the people did not wish to commit the church and state to a minister formed in the school of Dr. Price.

The late Marquis, the father of the present, died in the year 1805, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Lord Wycombe, the brother of the present Marquis. This nobleman, as above stated, was the pupil of Drs. Priestley and Price, and was accordingly, during the whole of his short life, the ready advocate of all their doctrines.

Upon every question of public policy he was necessarily a voter with Mr. Fox, and steadily opposed all those measures which Mr. Pitt, and those who acted with him, deemed necessary to preserve the country against the contagion of French principles. His Lordship, however, was perhaps better known for his pleasure yacht and sailing vessels, than for his exertions in public life. He was in the habit of sailing to and from Ireland, and the Continent, in a favourite yacht called the Frisk, of fifty-four tons, and mounting twelve guns, and fixed his residence and built a castle at Southampton, that he might indulge this taste with more convenience. With a ludicrous singularity of taste, the gardens of this castle were laid out at Romsey, a distance of ten or twelve miles from the house,—the castle itself, though one of the largest and most costly fabrics in the country, not having we believe half an acre of ground attached to it. It should be added, however, that the gardens and hot-

houses at Romsey occupy the site of Sir William's house and patrimony, and compose the original estate of the family. This nobleman was married to Lady Gifford, the widow of the late Sir Duke Gifford, Bart., of the kingdom of Ireland, and daughter of a respectable clergyman, in the county of Chester. He died without children, and was succeeded by his brother Lord Henry Petty, the present Marquis.

The present Marquis was born in July, 1780, and is now therefore in the 48th year of his age. His father had two wives—and his Lordship is the son of the second. His mother was an Irish lady, Lady Louisa Fitzpatrick, sister to the Earl of Upper Ossory.

At a proper period, Lord Henry Petty was sent to Westminster School, and lodged and boarded in one of the houses appropriated for Westminster boys, in Little Dean's Yard, Westminster. This house was at that time kept by an elderly lady of the name of Clapham—a woman of the old school, both as to the fashion of her garb, and as to the singular decency and matronly propriety with which she invested the character of a *Dame*. There were two ushers of the house at the period we speak of—the Rev. Mr. Smith, and the Rev. Mr. Debarry. The latter of these gentlemen, Mr. Debarry, who had just returned from taking his degree at Cambridge, was selected by the Marquis as a private tutor for his son, and was in

every respect just such a tutor, as the knowledge of the peculiar character of the Marquis would have led any one to predict would be chosen. The writer of this memoir has no purpose of throwing out general and vague imputations, he therefore thinks it necessary to add, that he alludes only to the reputed political opinions and bias of this gentleman, and particularly as respected those revolutionary doctrines and principles, which at that period prevailed in France.

Whilst Lord Henry Petty was at Westminster, which was from the year 1793 to about 1800, he was in no degree distinguished from the other boys, except for a very praiseworthy steadiness and gravity. By living entirely with his private tutor, he was in fact but little known to his schoolfellows, and he seemed to have no taste for mixing with them. As his father resided in Berkeley Square, and was frequently in Town, it may be imagined that Lord Henry passed a great portion of his time at home. His contemporaries at Westminster (of men since become public characters) were Lord Stormont, since Earl of Mansfield; Lord Ashburton (since dead); Dr. Phillimore, member of the Board of Control; H. Agar, since Lord Normanton; and Mr. Courtney, now Secretary to the Board of Control. With none of these had he any thing approaching to intimacy, except, perhaps, with Lord Ashburton, a puny youth, the son of Mr. Dunning, whom the Marquis of Lansdown, when minister, had raised to

the peerage. Whilst the other boys were pursuing the sports belonging to their age, Lord Henry Petty was understood to be reading with his private tutor. But whatever might be the cause, Lord Henry Petty, whilst at Westminster, was distinguished for any thing but for abilities. Perhaps his studies were not very well directed—perhaps, by incumbering his memory and overloading his judgment, he incurred the fate of those who grasp at too much, and therefore retain nearly nothing.

Upon leaving Westminster, Lord Henry Petty, accompanied by Mr. Debarry, repaired to the University of Edinburgh, a school, as the Marquis thought, of more liberal and philosophical principles than Oxford or Cambridge. The philosophy, such as it was, certainly better suited the taste of the friend of Price and Priestley: there was no fear that the young Lord should become too much attached either to the church or monarchy under such a discipline, administered and governed as the Scotch University was at that season.

Whilst at Edinburgh, Lord H. Petty, with his two friends, Lord Ashburton and Lord Fitzharris, passed nearly their whole time in the house of Mr. Dugald Stuart; we believe, indeed, that they boarded and lived with him. Mr. Stuart kept a good table and good company, and his lady is said to be a woman of more than ordinary accomplishments, and therefore the time of the young men

passed pleasantly enough. An English nobleman, or gentleman, however, would do well to pause before he should select any Scotch university as the place for educating his English children.

There was in Edinburgh, at this period, a society termed, "The Speculative Society," a kind of Robin Hood club, instituted, as professed, for improvement in public speaking, but not excluding the sciences. The members met weekly, and debated upon any subject previously appointed. The three young noblemen, Lords H. Petty, Ashburton, and Fitzharris, were admitted members. Lord H. Petty here became acquainted with several of those men, whom he afterwards was the means of introducing into place, when he was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Upon leaving Edinburgh, Lord H. Petty and Mr. Debarry took Cambridge in their way to London, and, though we believe it was no part of the Marquis's original intention to enter his son in an English university, Lord Henry was so much pleased with his reception at Cambridge, and at Trinity College, that he immediately became a member. He remained at Trinity till he had taken his degree, and is said to have made many private friends by his steady and gentlemanly demeanor whilst at that college.

As soon as he had quitted the Univesity, his father wished him to visit the Continent, and a Mr. Dumond was selected to accompany him. This gentleman was an early friend of the Mar-

quis, and had obtained by his interest a place in a government office, we believe in the Pells, the appointment having been given him by Colonel de Barré, whilst holding the clerkship of the Pells. Accompanied by this gentleman, as his friend and instructor, Lord H. Petty visited France, and thus became personally acquainted with many of those eminent characters who had recently changed the face of Europe. Buonaparte at this period courted the nobility of England, and particularly the sons of the opposition, and of those few British noblemen whom France and Frenchmen regarded as illuminées.

The peace of Amiens was of a very short duration, and the English were scarcely satisfied with the novelty of foreign scenes and travelling recreations, when the new policy of the French usurper compelled them to a hasty return. Lord H. Petty was one of those who returned to England upon this occasion, and was, no doubt, happy to find himself in safety, in his father's house in Berkeley Square.

A new Parliament was now called, and Lord H. Petty was nominated and returned for the borough of Calne. According to a most laudable custom always observed in the courts of civil law, his Lordship passed a year of probationary silence, during which he remained a hearer and patient observer only of all that was said and passed; but that year having expired, he at length made his maiden speech. The subject was connected with

Irish affairs, and Mr. Foster, the Irish member, made him some well-merited compliments upon the occasion. As a first speech, it was, indeed, only matter of ordinary courtesy to receive it with these compliments, and upon the score of modesty it perhaps deserved it.

Having thus broken the ice, Lord H. Petty now took a frequent part in the debates of that period, and opposed almost every measure introduced by Mr. Pitt. Though his style of oratory was rather tedious and puerile, he was still not deficient in copiousness; and as his rank was high, and his connexions powerful, the opposition hailed him with great warmth. His style of speaking, and indeed of argument, bore a great resemblance to that of Mr. Whitbread, one of the leaders of the opposition, except that he was less passionate and vehement. He was still, however, a great acquisition to the opposition, and his speeches were always received with cheers.

The inquiry into the conduct of Lord Melville commenced about this period, and it is unnecessary to add, that it immediately became the ground upon which both parties deemed it necessary to exert all their strength.

Now that so many years have passed since this transaction, namely, the parliamentary prosecution of Lord Melville, and that all party feelings have been buried with the dead, it is generally understood that the misdemeanor of Lord Melville, for such it certainly was, amounted rather to the vio-

lation of an express act of Parliament, than to any gross and direct act of public peculation. Not that the writer of this memoir deems Lord Melville to have been altogether clear of such a gross temporary appropriation of public money, as fully justified the parliamentary enquiry. It seems to be now admitted upon all sides, that there was a most inexcusable blending and confusion of the public and private monies of this nobleman whilst in office; and that if no proof could be brought home of the commission of actual fraud, still, that the opportunity of fraud, from the manner of keeping the accounts, was so easy, so frequent, and so obvious, as to justify the inference, that the monies were confounded as well as the accounts, and that the accounts were so kept, or at least so perseveringly confused and entangled, that all detection might be rendered impossible. Be this as it may, the speech of Lord Henry Petty upon this subject was nearly his first, and unquestionably his best, in the House of Commons, and so attracted the public attention upon his Lordship as to lead to his subsequent important office in his Majesty's councils.

One of the arguments in this memorable speech bears so strongly indeed upon a topic, (not altogether foreign to the reputed circumstances of some other of our public men,) that we consider the passage not unworthy to be repeated.

"Is it not pregnant with danger to the public creditors," (and to the good faith of the country,

and inconsistent with the clear honour of public men in high and responsible situations,) "that we should here see undeniable evidence of the combination of three persons,—one of whom is a jobber in the funds, a second has an immense sum of public money at his disposal, whilst the third is acquainted with all the secrets of Government. Mr. Mark Sprott, the broker, is in the confidence of Mr. Trotter, Mr. Trotter is in the confidence of Lord Melville, and Lord Melville is in the public confidence; so that they had an opportunity amongst them of carrying on successful speculations in the funds. I have heard of formidable conspiracies, but I have never heard of a conspiracy more formidable than that formed by these three persons."

All this is good sense, and is applicable to the like circumstances in any time. If it be contrary to every feeling and principle of gentlemanly honour for those to bet and play, who have privately some advantage over others, surely they cannot be regarded, even in a worldly point of view, as high and honourable characters, who, having the possession of public secrets, abuse their knowledge to the purposes of stock-jobbing. And if we further add to this consideration, that the very practice itself is totally irreconcileable with every generous and gentlemanly principle,—that it is the most mischievous and meanest species of gambling,—that the persons concerned in it are in the daily practice of every mode of deception, and

that it leads, and has led, to the most frightful crimes, and the most extensive ruin of families; we cannot but express our hope, that the gentry and nobility of the country will at least be preserved from the contagion of the meanest of our vices. It is our sincere opinion, that this stock-jobbing is not the vice of public men of the present day, and we hope never to see the day when it shall become the fashion of the age.

This business had been scarcely concluded, when an entire change of circumstances occurred on the public stage. After an administration of upwards of twenty years, interrupted only by the brief ministry of Mr. Addington, Mr. Pitt died,—universally lamented and esteemed, and leaving a situation which has never since been filled with the same ability. Whilst not only England, but all the sound part of Europe, concurred in lamenting this great public loss, the opposition, at the head of which was Mr. Fox, now availed themselves of a circumstance which none of them anticipated; and, with the usual blindness of human nature in prosperity, Mr. Fox seized the helm, from which, in little more than a year, he was himself to suffer the same removal into the dark mansions of the grave.

It is a subject, indeed, by no means improbable, that, at this very time, when Mr. Fox was just entering into the vacant seat of his predecessor, the worm of his mortal disease was already bred in the core of his system,—the venom was at

work, which, in a few months, was to send him to the tomb. So blind, however, are mortals to their fate, however imminent, that the honours and emoluments of office were eagerly seized. This spirit of Mr. Fox, and of his party, was very strongly and humorously expressed by the observation of a member of the House of Commons at that period, who said, that it was impossible not to pity the condition of the opposition, that it reminded him of what frequently happened in breeding of pigs,—there were more pigs than teats, and it would be necessary to smother some of them before there could be peace or plenty for the remainder.

In this new arrangement of public offices, Lord Henry Petty, who had now attained the age of twenty-six, was nominated Chancellor of the Exchequer, and was also made a member of the Privy Council. He at the same time became a candidate to represent the University of Cambridge. He was opposed by Lord Althope and Viscount Palmerston; the contest was sharp, but he succeeded in carrying his election by a majority of about thirty votes. It is certain, however, that he was no favourite with the great body of the University, and that he owed his election to his high official situation only. Accordingly, when he lost that situation, and again offered himself to the unbiassed votes of the University, he sustained a most signal defeat. It would, indeed, have been a subject of some surprise, if a body,

orthodox and attached to ancient principles in church and state, as this University has always been, could have voluntarily elected a son of the Sherburne family as their representative.

The first budget of Lord Henry Petty excited a very general indignation. Whilst Mr. Fox and his party were in opposition, they had annually declaimed against the severity of the taxes, and had more particularly inveighed against the oppression and inquisitorial effects of the income tax. Mr. Fox and his party were now ministers, and their first, their very first measure was to double the property tax, by raising the impost from five to ten per cent. This increase was proposed by Lord H. Petty, with a degree of levity as offensive as the augmentation itself. He seemed to say,—we have the power, and we will use it;—we are now the ministers, and we will act like such;—you should not have given our words more meaning than we ourselves attached to them;—we spoke as patriots out of place;—we shall now act as ministers in place. This style of speaking and acting gave a general and just offence; the Whigs became daily more unpopular, whilst the contrast between their pretensions, and what every one saw and knew to be their real character, rendered them objects of general derision. The name of "All the Talents," by which they had denominated themselves in a moment of complacency, became in a few months a name of scorn.

This measure, the doubling of the Property

Tax, a measure which united all classes against this Whig ministry, and particularly against a Chancellor of the Exchequer, who, with the pride and inexperience of youth, appeared to scorn and deride all the symptoms of popular impatience, was almost immediately followed by another of a nature still more odious,—the extension of the Excise into private dwellings, and a tax on private breweries. Of all modes of taxation, the Excise has always been more peculiarly hateful to Englishmen, because admitting and requiring the intrusion of the person of the tax-gatherer into the shops and warehouses of the subject, and thereby contradicting, as it were, the most established of our constitutional maxims, that, except in the case of the king's warrant for crimes, an Englishman's house is his castle:—hence, in all times of our history, the Excise has always been the most offensive of the modes of taxation, and hence, under all administrations, its extension has been most anxiously and jealously watched. Hitherto, moreover, the visit of the Exciseman, and the compass of the Excise, had been confined to the shops and warehouses of tradesmen; the private dwellings of persons not in trade had been carefully excepted and respected. It was not, therefore, without equal indignation and surprise, that the public now saw a Whig Ministry and a Patriotic Opposition, now for the first time, extending the Excise into every private dwelling-house in the country, and sub-

jecting all private brewing to this inquisitorial tax. The whole kingdom became so united against this most odious and impolitic proposal, that we believe, as far as our memory goes, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Cabinet were compelled to abandon it by the mere force of popular discontent. The county of Kent led the way in this general opposition, and so strong and universal was the public feeling, that the friends of the ministry could not venture to vindicate this precipitate measure.

Lord H. Petty, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, was unfortunate enough to follow these two finance measures by a third, equally erroneous upon every just principle of political economy, and which we believe he was likewise compelled to abandon almost as soon as proposed,—a tax on Iron in the mine, or in the first state of its manufacture, when called Pig Iron. It is scarcely necessary to observe, that it is a first principle with all writers on political economy, from Turgot to Smith, not to prevent and preclude manufacture, by imposing any tax upon the raw material, but to suffer it to reach the last stage of its manufacturing process, before any tax shall be imposed upon it. The reasons are obvious. In the first place, any tax so imposed upon the raw material must be re-drawn with a profit by the manufacturer who pays it; and so on by every one employed in the manufacture, through every successive stage of the fabric; so that the tax will be

paid three or four times, and with a profit on each payment, before it will reach the public consumer. The price is thus enormously enhanced, and the general use and consumption of the manufactured article proportionately restrained. And, secondly, a larger capital is required by those who are concerned in the manufacture, and the fabric is thereby confined to fewer manufacturers, competition is proportionately lessened, and a monopoly by great capitalists facilitated and encouraged. Against both these leading principles, Lord H. Petty's proposed tax upon pig iron offended, and accordingly encountered such an opposition, and upon such indisputable grounds, as covered the Whig Ministry with confusion.

These three main measures, the doubling the property tax, the tax upon private brewing throughout the country, and the proposed tax upon raw iron, have ever since remained the public characteristics of this Whig administration, and, at the time of which we are now speaking, raised such a general disgust against the whole party, that the ministry was no sooner tried, than the public voice demanded their dismissal. It was said of them, as was said of one of the Roman emperors,—that every one had thought them to be most worthy of power, till they unfortunately lived to see them in possession of it.

Whilst the nation was smarting under these feelings, and the disappointment of its hopes, an event occurred which delivered it from a Whig

ministry, and intercepted, most happily intercepted, all those incipient reforms, which Lord H. Petty and his Edinburgh associates were doubtless preparing for church and state. It is impossible, indeed, not to lament the premature death of a man of so many estimable private qualities, and of such unquestionable talents as Mr. Fox; but it is equally impossible not to rejoice at the deliverance of the nation from a minister and a ministry whose principles appear to have been notoriously adverse to the highest and best interests of the country. The death of Mr. Fox gave the first and fatal blow to the ministry of the Whigs; they began to reel in the instant, and the effect of the blow was completed by a circumstance which no one had foreseen.

This was the Catholic Question, a term now so sufficiently understood, as not to require any further appendage of exposition. They had introduced a bill of this nature, in which, it may be presumed, they had not testified much respect for the constitutional privileges, and paramount ascendancy of the Established Church. The king immediately took the alarm, and required of his ministers, that they should instantly abandon the measure, and should not at least array the power and influence of the crown against the known feelings and wishes of the king. From a desire to preserve their places, a principle always fundamental amongst this party, they offered to withdraw the bill, and to submit to his majesty's

pleasure. The king felt and thought that he had already seen enough of their principles to require some further security,—some pledge and promise, that they would not avail themselves of any future circumstances to repeat the attempt. The Whigs, seeing how the posture of affairs had changed, and probably anticipating that no concession would do more than protract the duration of their power for a few weeks, declined to give the required pledge, and withdrew from their offices.

Thus terminated one of the most odious administrations, which, since the Coalition Ministry of Lord North, had ever tried the patience of the public, and which indeed was still more generally unpopular than even that ministry, as it both disappointed the people and was pregnant with the most fatal mischief to the established institutions of the country. The king immediately called a new administration, and it became necessary to dissolve the Parliament, although it had been convoked only a few months.

Upon this occasion Lord H. Petty had the singular imprudence again to throw himself upon the University of Cambridge, and solicit his return to Parliament as its representative. The University, however, had a due sense of what belonged to its character as one of the defenders of the established church, and very strongly expressed its disapprobation of the Whig ministry and its Catholic measures. There were three other Candidates upon this occasion, and the result of the poll, which ter-

minated in one day, was on its conclusion as follows:—Lord Euston, 324—Sir Vicary Gibbs, 313—Lord Palmerston, 310—Lord H. Petty, 265.

Being thus rejected at Cambridge, Lord H. Petty betook himself to the borough of Camelford, a borough belonging to the Duke of Bedford, and was returned of course.

Upon the meeting of the new Parliament, Lord H. Petty took his place upon the opposition bench, as one of the leaders of that party. He was not, however, much qualified to gain reputation in this character, his knowledge not exceeding what belonged to his age and circumstances. He necessarily shared in the unpopularity which followed the whole party of the Whigs, and as the country gentlemen were the organs of this public opinion, he had now lost the confidence of the House. He now, therefore, learned that it is one thing to speak amidst the cheers of an assembled House, and another to contend against adverse feelings. Accordingly, though we well remember the atchievements of Lord H. Petty's ministry, we cannot say that we have the slightest recollection of any successful essays of his opposition.

About this time, the year 1809 or 1810, his Lordship having attained the thirtieth year of his age, and having hitherto lived a life of business and celibacy, resolved to change his condition, and to venture the experiment, whether a domestic life might not afford more substantial happiness than

the course of politics. He accordingly sought, and obtained the hand of his cousin, Lady Louisa Strangeways, daughter of Lord Ilchester. The families had been before united in blood and alliance, and the marriage we believe gave satisfaction to all the connexions on both sides. Without trespassing within the precincts of domestic life, we can venture to assert, from our own knowledge of his Lordship's temper and habits, that no one is better qualified for all the enjoyments of the domestic hearth. His temper is mild—his manners quiet and refined, and all his habits those of an English gentleman. We exceedingly doubt, whether his Lordship has ever mounted a hunter in his life, and we know that he is in no degree addicted either to the table or the club.

The death of his father, which preceded the event of Lord Henry's marriage, had already rendered the income of his Lordship sufficient for his rank and comfort—the late Marquis having been celebrated during his life for the union of two things, not very usual in the same person—a liberal expenditure, and a wise economy. In "Boswell's Life of Dr. Johnson," the Doctor is said to have related to his biographer, that the Marquis of Lansdown had once said to him, that five thousand pounds per annum was as much as any nobleman required, to enjoy and procure all the elegancies and comforts of life suitable to his rank—that he could not in fact spend more, unless he resorted either to the gaming table, or to a waste-

ful and idle extravagance. The Marquis (Lord Henry's father) regulated his own life and expenditure upon this principle, and accordingly was enabled to provide liberally for his second son. By his will, he left him the Kerry estate in Ireland, a part of the ancient patrimony of his family. The Earl of Wycombe, Lord Henry's brother, stood, we believe, at no period very high in his father's favour, and therefore as much as was in the power of the father, was abstracted, we believe, from the inheritance of the elder brother, to constitute a provision for the younger. The whole mind of the old Marquis was wrapt up in his younger son; he laboriously formed him, as the Earl of Chatham did Mr. Pitt, for a statesman, and he lived long enough to see him rise in public reputation.

Upon the death of his father, his brother, the Earl of Wycombe, became Marquis of Lansdown, but, from some reason or other, entirely retired from public life, giving himself up to yacht-building, and sailing to and from Southampton and the coasts adjacent. The new Marquis enjoyed his dignity but a short time, and was succeeded by Lord H. Petty.

From this period, up to the present time, Lord H. Petty, now Marquis of Lansdown, has comparatively been but little known in the political world, till the new ministry of Mr. Canning was formed; and this most unforeseen combination of political circumstances called the Marquis again

into office. With the known firmness belonging to the royal character, the King was resolved to maintain the ministers of his own nomination, and, in order to compose an administration of the necessary strength, his Majesty found himself compelled to resort to the Whigs. We believe, that the whole business was managed with such singular dexterity, as to do honour to the zeal and talents of those employed. Lords Holland and Grey refused all advances, but the Marquis of Lansdown, already wearied of a life of long inaction, was found more accessible, and, after a due interval, and a decent reluctance, accepted the offered honour of the Seals of the Home Department.

In the course of this sketch, enough has been already said of the private character and personal qualities of its subject. As a statesman, the present Marquis, if not in the first rank, is by no means to be regarded as an ordinary man. He was laboriously and accurately educated, and his father was, in every respect, competent to teach him the public and private history of the British and foreign courts. The sums distributed out of his own income, for foreign and political intelligence, are said to have rendered the late Marquis one of the best informed men in Europe, in all matters relating to foreign courts and politics; and it is equally well known, that he spared no expense in procuring suitable instructors for his children. He had the largest collection of pamphlets

of any man of his time, and during all his life was surrounded by those who were the busiest spirits of the age. The present Marquis, therefore, had every advantage for the acquisition of this kind of knowledge; and he possesses it. His reach of mind, however, is not great—his political principles are not those which the majority of the country approve. They see him without displeasure in his present office, because they know that he cannot give any practical effect to these principles. At the present period, the Government of England is administered upon the same policy, which has long been observed with respect to that of Ireland. In the latter kingdom, a Lord Lieutenant of one political bias, is always counteracted by a Secretary and Lord Chancellor of the opposite inclination. It is the same with the present administration. The high interests of the country are secured by a system of mutual checks and controls. The Whigs, though partially in power, are, as to all practical effects, rendered wholly harmless by their Tory companions; and thus neither King nor country can entertain any just apprehension from the predominance of this dangerous party.

In his domestic affairs, the present Marquis possesses every thing to render life desirable. By a singular good fortune, he recovered the family mansion in Berkeley Square from the widow of his brother; the settlement of the house upon that lady not having been duly executed. The

Marquis accordingly enjoys this splendid mansion, one of the most elegant and sumptuous houses in the kingdom. All the ceilings are touched or painted by the pencil of Cipriani, and the collection of paintings and other decorations are by the greatest masters. Such, indeed, was the taste of the Marquis's father for this species of excellence, that he was always employing artists of some description or other to make additions or improvements.

The family risidence in the country is at Bowood, a splendid palace, which the present Marquis's father raised from a mere bog. The late Marquis had entirely deserted this seat, and employed his whole time in building and decorating his Castle at Southampton. This Castle has been since taken down, and all its ornaments dispersed. Unhappily, we believe, the family property has suffered by the family differences. An important lesson to parents, not to make any marked distinction between their children. The evil never terminates there.

As the present Marquis is notoriously a studious man, much of his time, it may be presumed, is passed in his library, which is one of the most magnificent rooms in Europe. It is one hundred and ten feet in length, and is ornamented with the most valuable Egyptian, Grecian, and Roman statues. The ceiling is painted by Cipriani, from the antiquities found in Herculaneum. During the life of the present Marquis's father, the collection of books was worthy of this magnificent

apartment, and corresponding with the wealth of the owner. It consisted of about ten thousand volumes of the most valuable works in all languages, arranged in a scientific distribution. It was most complete as to the class of English history and politics, and comprehended every work which has been published on the subject of the French Revolution. The delight of the Marquis (the father of the present) was in this library. Upon his death, it became the property of his eldest son, the brother of the present Marquis. His taste and pursuits were for other objects, and perhaps his property was rather inconveniently curtailed by the liberality of his father to his second son. Be the cause what it might, the Marquis no sooner succeeded to this noble collection, than he ordered it to be sold by auction.

We have already had occasion to state, that the family estates were altogether acquired by Sir William Petty, and were even at his death very considerable. At the death of the late Marquis, the total income of his estates in England and Ireland could not fall short of £30,000 per annum. The greater portion of this property is in Wiltshire in England; but that in Ireland is distributed through many counties. Some of the Irish estates are situated in the county of Dublin, and some in the more remote provinces. The present Marquis, by the death of his brother, and the previous settlement by his father, is now possessed of the estates in both kingdoms.

Though a leader of the Whigs, and holding all

the principles which belong to his party, the Marquis may be regarded as a very moderate partisan —none of his exclusive principles hanging so inconveniently close to him, as not to be divested when required. During the administration of the Earl of Liverpool, the Marquis had already expressed such a disposition towards an accession to the existing administration, that the Earl was more than willing to open his ranks to receive him. We believe, that the King was not, at that period, equally willing to admit a Whig into the cabinet, and was afterwards only induced by circumstances to make this concession.

The Marquis is now in the 48th year of his age. His stature is rather low, but he has the air of good-breeding. His voice is husky; his style of speaking, slow. In private life, we have no difficulty in believing that he is a most amiable character. In public, the country will not soon forget in what school his riper years were spent, nor what they owed to him whilst Chancellor of the Exchequer.

By his mother, the Marquis is nearly connected with the Fox family, and is a cousin of the present Lord Holland. The second wife of his father, who was his mother, (Lady Louisa Fitzpatrick), was sister to the dowager Lady Holland, the mother of Lord Holland. From family connexion, therefore, as well as from their union in party principles, there has always been a very close intimacy and friendship between Lord Holland and the Marquis.

SIR NICHOLAS CONYNGHAM TINDAL.

HIS MAJESTY'S SOLICITOR-GENERAL.

THERE are two modes by which lawyers may rise to eminence in this kingdom,—one by being so well adapted to discharge the current business of the day, as to become pointed out as a safe and useful man; the other, by possessing those conspicuous talents which manifestly designate a man for public life. A third means of eminence is the possession of high connexions. The two last modes have of late years supplied the leading characters of the day. But it has not unfrequently occurred, that mere business talents have been the means of advancing those who possess them, into the first situations of the state. The late Lord Gifford was one eminent example. Sir Samuel Shepherd, though in every respect a superior man as a lawyer and a man of knowledge, was another; both of them owed their rise in life to their unwearied diligence in business, and to the valuable faculties of executing their instructions to the letter, and being exemplarily attached to their patrons. The late Mr. Rose was another; the first Lord Liverpool was a still more conspicuous example. We intend nothing like an offensive

remark, when we say, that none of these gentlemen possessed any other distinction than a sound judgment and a straight forward common sense, executing every business with which they were intrusted as if it had been a military command, and being what is called safe and sure men under any emergency.

Sir Nicholas Conyngham Tindal is one of this description of public characters. He has been called forwards to act an under part upon two or three important occasions, and he was found to act prudently and discreetly in all. Without any pretension he satisfied himself with the simple discharge of his duty, and a cool and deliberate obedience to his instructions. In a word, his first employers found him safe and useful; and as there is always an occasion for the services of such a man, and as his qualities excite no impeding jealousy, he was remembered upon a suitable opportunity, and advanced to the first step on the ladder of promotion.

Sir Nicholas, like many other of our leading men, was born on the floor of private life, owing every thing (as a secondary means) to his own industry, and nothing to birth or connexions. His father was an attorney, but, it may be presumed, of good circumstances and practice, as he was enabled to give his son a classical education, and at a proper age to send him to Cambridge. As Sir N. Tindal is now about forty-eight or forty-nine years

of age, he must have been born about the year 1777. In the year 1797, we find him on the books of Trinity College, Cambridge, having probably been sent there upon some exhibition from the country school at which he received his first education. It is scarcely credible by those who have not ocularly become acquainted with the circumstance, how much real charity and public utility result from these exhibitions attached to country schools, where they are honestly administered. It is unnecessary to observe, that the very interests of religion require the clergy of the Established Church to maintain a certain rank in society, to which the ordinary amount of their incomes is barely adequate. By the canons of the church, they are strictly prohibited from endeavouring to increase their incomes by following any lucrative traffic; even farming beyond what is necessary for the daily supply of their household, is holden to be inconsistent with their duties. Under such circumstances, the clergy are totally unable to educate their sons either for the bar or pulpit, or any state of life which requires a collegiate course at the English Universities. These exhibitions of fifty, sixty, and seventy pounds a year, granted to youths belonging to certain schools, founded in almost every county, render in this respect a noble and most useful aid; by means of which both the legal and clerical bench have been provided with their brightest characters, and without which some of our ablest men would only have been the humble

tradesmen of the town which gave them birth. We do not know it for a fact, but we believe it to be so, that both Lord Eldon and Lord Stowel were thus sent to the University, as we know it to be true, that the commencement in public life of both these noblemen was made as Fellows of University College, Oxford. Lord Stowel was Tutor of his college before he came to the bar. Very few men have risen to eminence through greater difficulties, and through more opposing obstacles, than the three present heads of the law,—the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, and the Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. It is not many years since that one of these eminent personages so despaired of success in his profession, that, under the pressing incumbrance of domestic difficulties, he was about to quit it, and was only induced to continue his practice by the kind exhortations of a friend, and a liberal present assistance.

Mr. Tindal first became known in public life, though in a humble way, by his studious and regular habits at Trinity College, where his attainments were so respectable, and his conduct so exemplary, that he was elected to a fellowship. He graduated in the year 1799, and was the eighth in the list of Wranglers, and had also the high honour of being the senior medalist. After having taken his degree, he came to London, and commenced his law terms. He soon became known as an able special pleader, and was called

to the bar a very short time before he rose into a very respectable chamber practice. His employment in this part of his business, that is, in drawing and settling declarations, was at all times greater than his employment in court, and he was, in fact, better known as an able lawyer amongst his comrades in the profession than to the public. His want of rhetorical talents has always kept him from any large business in the courts, whilst it is a matter of notoriety, that no one is more competent to discharge all the functions of a complete lawyer with due ability.

As Sir Vicary Gibbs was the means by which Lord Gifford was brought into notice, and was raised to an eminence which he could never have contemplated, so Gifford was the instrument of Sir Nicholas Tindal's first rise. Gifford saw that he possessed a species of knowledge which he, of all men, held in the highest estimation; in other words, that he was a special pleader, nearly as exact, accurate, and laborious as himself; that he was seeking fortune by assiduous labour, and that he merited it by his private character and respectable attainments. We believe, that the knowledge of these circumstances induced Gifford to become his patron, and to take every opportunity to assist him. A favourable occasion soon offered, and Gifford, who was at that period Attorney-General, availed himself of it.

Reports having reached England of the conduct of the late Queen, during her travels and resi-

dence abroad, his Majesty was induced to submit the affair to the consideration of the present Master of the Rolls, at that time Mr. Leach. By his advice, a special commission of two barristers was sent to Italy, and depositions taken upon the spot, by permission and with the aid of the Austrian Government. Upon the return of these gentlemen, the case, fortified with these depositions, was again submitted to Mr. Leach, at that time Sir John Leach, Vice-Chancellor. Sir John, having given them the due examination, gave his legal opinion, that they were amply sufficient to make out the case against her Majesty, and recommended the necessary proceedings before Parliament. The Lord Chancellor (Eldon) had the cautious dexterity to elude giving his opinion, alleging, we presume, that it would be inconsistent with the judicial functions which he must necessarily exercise on the trial, or enquiry. The King, therefore, was thus cast entirely upon the opinion of Sir John Leach, and he resolved to act upon it, and to command the proceeding to be commenced without delay. Gifford, as Attorney-General, made no hesitation in obeying; and, as a good special pleader and junior counsel was required, he selected Mr. Tindal.

It is unnecessary to repeat the well known circumstances of an affair too recent in the memory of all of us, and in which nothing was more extraordinary than the heat of parties on both sides. Suffice it to say, that it afforded Mr. Tindal, as

well as Mr. Parke, an ample field for the display of their abilities, and that both of them became thenceforwards marked for professional promotion. In no other trial, perhaps, were so many collateral points raised, upon the most nice and difficult topic in our legal system—the law of evidence. The nature of the tribunal was such as to give little weight to any rules, having no other foundation than the long usage of the courts; and it therefore became necessary for the counsel employed, not only to allege the rule, but to assign and defend the reasons upon which it was grounded. Mr. Brougham had here an unmeasurable advantage over Gifford, who knew indeed all the rules, but had never troubled himself with the reasons, and who had not that wide range of general knowledge, which could alone have enabled him to make what he could not find. His Solicitor-General, Sir John Copley, was indeed fully adequate to this task, but it was contrary to the received decorum of office, that he should throw his principal into the back ground.

Upon all these occasions Mr. Tindal distinguished himself as a good and able lawyer, and conferred all the assistance to the cause which it could derive from the most exact knowledge of a special pleader. Indeed, in respect even of general knowledge, Tindal was superior to most of the other lawyers employed upon this occasion, Copley excepted on the one side, and Brougham on

the other. Both Copley and Tindal had very highly distinguished themselves at Cambridge; both had been fellows of their college, and both had owed this literary honour, (for such it is), to their studious habits and great attainments. In accurate learning and regular scholarship, both of them were, and are, unquestionably very superior to Mr. Brougham, whose education was notoriously irregular, and who may be therefore deemed to be rather literary than learned. But no one, perhaps, has more improved his natural talents by a hard course of self-education, than Mr. Brougham; and as the condition of his life, and his early political connexions, threw him at once into the great battle of the world, he has acquired a readiness in the use of his weapons, and an undaunted resolution, in which he has few equals. In the business of the Queen's trial, he displayed this readiness, and this unawed and unyielding front to great advantage; he brought all the resources of his mind, and all the materials acquired by various reading, to bear upon the question, and confounded and astonished Gifford by the novelty of topics and arguments to which he was nearly an entire stranger. It was not so with Copley, Tindal, and the other regularly educated men opposed to him; they were in fact more at home in such a field of general knowledge than Mr. Brougham himself, and would both of them have reaped more fame from this celebra-

ted contest, had they been leaders instead of auxiliaries; had it been their part to lead Gifford instead of following him.

The abilities which Mr. Tindal displayed upon this occasion were soon followed by the reward which might have been anticipated. It was a very honourable feature in the character of Lord Liverpool, that, in his anxiety to procure suitable men for the offices of administration, he was always on the look out, and no sooner saw an able lawyer, or read the work of an able living writer, than he marked him down for promotion on a favourable opportunity. This was the case with Mr Tindall We believe, that one of the results of the Queen's trial was, to cause him to be thus noted for advancement upon the first suitable occasion. Accordingly, when Copley, by becoming Master of the Rolls, made way for Wetherell to become Attorney-General, Tindal was made Solicitor-General in his stead, and, as a necessary consequence, according to the present laudable custom of the University of Cambridge, was elected one of their representatives in Parliament.

As a member of the House, Mr. Tindal is at present known for one measure only, but that an important improvement in the existing law. This is the Arrest and Mesne Process Bill. Under the previous law of debtor and creditor, a debt of ten pounds was a sufficient amount to procure the arrest of a debtor, and to detain him in custody till he had given bail or paid the debt. One of the

consequences of this law was, that the prisons were always so full as to menace contagious disorders, and to afford such scenes of distress and misery by crouded bed rooms and insufficient air, as were afflicting to humanity. Another effect was, that the amount of small debts was thus immediately doubled or trebled by the costs of the first process; so that the debtor was irretrievably ruined, and the creditor entirely lost his money. It is, indeed, a very inconsiderate, not to say an inhuman oversight, in matters of this kind, to regard the consequences to one party only, and to confound all non-payments of debt in the same class of dishonesty; as if the daily experience of life were not at hand to instruct us, that unforeseen misfortune and venial imprudence are as often the cause as perverse dishonesty. Sir Nicholas Tindal, with a better knowledge of life, and with a most creditable humanity, gave these considerations their full weight. He laid it down as an incontrovertible maxim, that it was incumbent upon the good policy of the state not to aggravate the misery of the unfortunate debtor; and it was therefore a duty, for the sake of debtors as well as creditors, to prevent such an increase of the original debt by law costs, as to render even the consequences of a small debt as ruinous to the debtor, as the recovery of it was hopeless by the creditor. Such were the principles of this measure, and it is impossible not to give them our most unqualified approbation.

Another legal service in which Sir Nicholas Tindal has concurred, has been the improvement of the Bankrupt Laws, in which he supported the act of Mr. Eden, drawn under the supervision and with the characteristic caution of the late Lord Chancellor Eldon. For the sake of the general reader, it may be briefly observed, that the former bankrupt laws laboured under one main defect; that is, that no one could legally procure himself to be made a bankrupt, however desperate his affairs might be, and however necessary such an expedient might be to procure the equal division of his property amongst his creditors. Under these circumstances, the property of an embarrassed man might be seized in parts, and wasted and expended by such of his creditors as should first sue him; so that the majority of them would lose the whole of their debts. To prevent these consequences, ruinous alike to debtors and creditors, a provision, called a Clause of Insolvency, has now been introduced in the Bankrupt Laws, under which any trader may declare himself insolvent, and, having filed the declaration in the Gazette Office, may then procure a friendly creditor to sue out a commission against him,—so far, this is a useful enactment. Beyond this, we find it impossible to praise the new Bankrupt Act. It is manifestly drawn in the spirit of the late Chancellor; there is a most jealous caution not to go too far,—to remove little difficulties and petty inconveniences, but carefully to abstain from meddling with

those obscurities, and in many cases, with those sources of gross hardships and iniquities, which, however, though known to the profession, had not yet excited any public clamour, or become the subject of general reprehension. Where a Lord Chief Justice, like Lord Ellenborough, had at once expressed his astonishment and abhorrence upon some particular consequence of the existing law, the new Act, in the true spirit of Lord Eldon, has declared that such consequence shall be no longer law, but, cautiously confining itself to this declaration, has left the principle itself untouched, though, in so doing, it has left the root of a hundred other hardships greater than the particular one which it has removed. It is much to be lamented, that the utility of the act has been curtailed by this narrow and impolitic caution, and that the foibles (for such they unquestionably are), of a Chancellor, rendered timid and indecisive by long and inveterate habit, should be adopted and continued by his younger successors.

A third measure, more peculiarly belonging to Sir Nicholas Tindal, is, the improvement of the law respecting debts under fifteen pounds, which is still only in a train, but we trust will be brought to a conclusion during the Session now ensuing. This measure was at first attempted by Lord Althorp, but was defeated by the perverse opposition of Lord Eldon to every thing in the nature of innovation, which with him is an invasion upon something consecrated by establishment.

With every due respect for the learning of the late Chancellor, and with a deep regard for the worth which we believe him to possess, we must be allowed to say, that no one has possessed so much learning to so little public purpose, and, that however admirable his particular judgments may be, and therefore however much the individuals concerned may owe to him, to no one is the country so little indebted, to no one does the law, as a system, owe so little. No one in deciding particular cases has been so narrowly cautious not to strike out some general principle, which might comprehend all analogous cases, and aid and abridge the labour of some future Judge or Chancellor. To return, however, to our subject.—The object of the proposed law to improve the process for the recovery of small debts is twofold,—to facilitate their recovery, and to diminish the law expences. Under the present state of things, the first process in suing for a debt of five, seven, or ten pounds is the writ, the cost of which is two guineas,—if the defendant be then unable to pay the debt, the next expence (and that frequently within ten days of the issuing of the writ, and never more than a month), is four guineas for the declaration, making a total of six guineas, to recover a debt of five pounds, even if paid within a month. If not then paid, but allowed to go to trial, the costs, even supposing no defence, and, therefore, costs only on one side, will amount to forty-five pounds on a debt of five. It is nothing, to say that the defen-

dant may prevent these consequences, by paying the debt, as misfortune may have deprived him of the means; or he may honestly have exceeded his means, or over-rated them in the first instance, and the increase of the debt by the ruinous costs may then have rendered payment impossible. The humanity, therefore, of a law to prevent this cruelty, would be unquestionable.

Upon the recent change in the ministry, occasioned by the melancholy condition of Lord Liverpool, the Attorney-General Wetherell retired, and it was generally expected that Sir Nicholas Tindal would have followed the example. There is some cause to believe that the Attorney-General acted more hastily than the occasion required, and that he has since thought so himself. It is certain, that none of the noblemen and gentlemen, who have subsequently become members of the administration, would have required his resignation, or expected any departure from his known or alleged principles. By retiring, he lost a situation which he will not soon regain, and has gained nothing. Sir Nicholas Tindal had the good sense or the good fortune to avoid this error; he remained in his place, and will continue there until he can be adequately promoted. It cannot be supposed, that the leading interests in the present ministry are very friendly to a Solicitor-General whom they cannot consider to be attached to any party; but there is a certain courtesy and acknowledged decorum, which require them to permit his

services till they can remove him to the Bench. Whenever a vacancy shall occur on the Judicial Bench, Sir Nicholas Tindal will be called upon to fill it.

In point of talents, we have already had occasion to state the acknowledged pretensions of the Solicitor-General. He is a good classical scholar and an eminent mathematician, in both respects very far superior to Sir James Scarlett, who is neither one nor the other. As a regularly educated man, he has a very comprehensive knowledge, and has a clear and cool judgment, which enables him to turn his acquisitions to good use. It is, indeed, highly to the credit of Trinity College, and is no inconsiderable argument in favour of the general course of instruction there, that so many high offices, both in the law and state, are filled by Trinity men; and it is worthy of remark, that most of those who have distinguished themselves in the state, are those who have obtained high honours in their examination for degrees. The Solicitor-General is a Trinity man,—the Attorney-General is a Trinity man,—and the Lord Chancellor is a Trinity man;—the Solicitor-General and the Chancellor were both Wranglers and Prize-men, and both as distinguished in the schools as they have since been in the courts. In some of the self-sufficient reviews of the day, the general course of our Universities, and particularly the mathematical course at Cambridge, has been held up to ridicule; and it has been triumphantly demanded, to what it

has ever led, and what figure those who have been so trained have afterwards made on the stage of the world. The answer certainly is, that it has produced many sound and exact scholars, whose more deep and correct knowledge of the mathematical and physical sciences, have arrested the current of the Scotch and French sceptical philosophy; many men, who, in explaining the mechanism of the Universe, never lose sight of the First Cause, and are content to be learned without seeking to be impious. With all their scorn of Cambridge and Oxford, we will venture to inform Mr. Brougham and Mr. Jeffrey, that every annual list of young men to be examined for their degrees contains more than ten or twelve youths, every one of whom would be a phenomenon in a Scotch University, and before many of whom a Playfair, a Leslie, and a Jardine, would confess themselves unable to sustain a comparison.

Sir Nicholas Tindal is still in the prime of life, and so industrious and so active, that he has, in truth, very little to apprehend from any change of parties. It certainly may happen, that he may lose his place before an opportunity to remove him upon the Bench may occur; but he cannot lose his reputation as a good case lawyer, nor his practice as a good special pleader. He is no orator; he appears to want the voice, the confidence, and therefore the habit. He is consequently less useful in difficult times than his political associates expect, but he retains the qualities for

which he was advanced,—he is safe, and to be depended upon. He is, moreover, straight forward and honest; there is no apprehension of any intrigue or underworking to remove his associates, and supplant them by men more to his mind.

Sir Nicholas Tindal is a widower, and has a family of seven children. He keeps up his connexion with the college in which he passed his early life, and appears to enjoy himself in that short and joyous interval which the usage of the University devotes to fellowship and festivity upon the close of every year. He has our best wishes for his health and happiness, and may he long live to uphold our establishments in church and state, and to represent our University with his solid, exact, and useful learning.

THE RIGHT HON. ROBERT PEEL.

IT has been a frequent, and will always continue to be a most just observation, that, whilst we have so many histories and biographies of naval and military leaders, there are comparatively very few books which give us the biography of private life, though there can be no comparison in the point of utility, and though, even as far as regards present interest and amusement, the lives of indi-

viduals in the same general condition of life with ourselves must have the advantage. Few, very few, of mankind can hope to rise to distinction by naval or military honours, whilst all may aspire to emulate the steady industry and active pursuit of business which characterize a successful merchant or manufacturer, and by means of the same qualities may not unreasonably hope to attain a like success. The families of the three last Chancellors of the Exchequer, indeed we might add, of the three last Lord Chancellors, Lords Chief Justices of the King's Bench, Attorneys-General, and Solicitors-General, have been at once a strong example both of the popular nature of our Government, and of the mode and means by which families emerge from a humble station in private life to the first honours of the state and nobility. The condition of the father of Mr. Canning is scarcely known with any certainty; the father of Mr. Herries was a London merchant, and the father and grandfather of Mr. Peel were successful manufacturers.

The family of Mr. Peel derives its origin from a respectable stock resident at Peelcross, in Lancashire, where the grandfather, Mr. Robert Peel, possessed an estate, upon which he lived in the simplicity and comfort of rural life. He had seven children, six sons and a daughter, all of whom he appears to have educated at home or in the school of the next town, and to have most carefully

formed them to habits of industry and independence. His two maxims for his sons were,—choose some trade which has a prospect of flourishing and increasing, and apply yourselves in earnest to it, that you may flourish and increase with it. His other maxims seem to have been,—marry not too early, and retire not from business too soon. One of the most pitiable characters in life is a poor gentleman, or a man who depends on any thing but the blessing of Providence upon his own industry. Mr. Robert Peel, indeed, the grandfather of our present subject, appears, from the memorial and accounts before us, to have been any thing but an ordinary character; he recals very forcibly to our minds the character of two men, who, like himself, have been the founders of two families,—the late Mr. Copley, the father of Lord Lyndhurst, and the late Sir Francis Baring, the father of the present Sir Thomas Baring of Hampshire. He adopted from early life one object, view, and plan,—that of enriching his family by a steady and industrious pursuit of trade, and, having learned by his own observations and experience what were the qualities required to succeed, he seems to have taught them, like a daily lesson, to his children. It is extremely creditable to this worthy character (as we really believe him to have been) that he did not confine himself to an exhortation to attain these worldly qualities only, but added those which are more becoming the Christian. If we may judge from what we

see in his descendants, he taught them that men were made for other purposes than to accumulate money, and that the first wisdom, as well as the first duty, was the fear of his Maker.

Sir Robert Peel, the father of Mr. Secretary Peel, was the third son of this gentleman, and was born at Peelcross, in the year 1750, and is at this time in his 78th year. Sir Robert is still accustomed to speak with warm satisfaction of the character and practical mode of life of his father:—"There were seven of us," he will sometimes observe, "and my father always used to say, be united, my lads; be friends, and fast friends with each other; you shall all have the same trade, but all different *divisions* of it, that you may aid and not interfere with each other; a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether." We do not profess to give the exact words of the worthy baronet, but we are writing from a memorial which we believe to have been a family one, and the substance of it is what we are stating.

It was another advantage in the early life of Sir Robert Peel, that he was educated entirely in the country, and formed from his first boyhood to habits of simplicity and hardihood. His father had two predominant feelings,—a love of industry, and an apprehension of idleness and vanity. Hence, he had neither the wish, nor the means, to give his children any scholastic education beyond what the adjoining school afforded. They were all taught to read, write, and the first elements of

arithmetic, and here their education terminated. A University education never entered the thoughts of the worthy grandfather of the Peels; and if it had, would probably have been indignantly rejected as inconsistent with the condition of life for which he was educating them. It is a device entirely peculiar to the present day, to educate not only manufacturers, but even mechanics, to pure sciences, and thus to infuse tastes, and gradually form habits, which must eventually unfit them for the functions necessarily belonging to their stations. Accordingly, Sir Robert Peel, the father of Mr. Secretary Peel, had no advantage of a classic education; perhaps, never read a page of any other grammar than that of his native tongue. Like his father, he is known to excel in acuteness of intellect and shrewdness of understanding; he conceives clearly, and expresses himself strongly. His leisure time he has always employed, and still, we believe, delights to employ (till very recently) in reading history, biography, voyages, and travels, and all such works as bear upon the statistic condition of the country, and more particularly upon its agriculture and manufactures. It is incredible how much knowledge, and that of the most useful kind, may be attained by this mode of study, and how superior is the value of such knowledge to any mere classical attainments. It cannot be denied, that the usual classical course of instruction in our schools and Universities, affords little more fruit than the improvement of

the taste, and, as to any other purposes of knowledge, is dismissed at once upon leaving the school or college. Of those many thousands of our gentry and nobility who have been educated within the learned cloisters of Oxford and Cambridge, how very few are there, who, within ten years after they have quitted their college, could read a page of Virgil or Sallust, or have ever looked into any Latin or Greek author, since they have taken their degree. With the single exception of the insensible improvement of the taste, and the early exercise of the powers of the understanding in studies of some difficulty, (and these advantages we admit,) will any advocate of the present system of education venture to assert, that our youth derive much benefit from our public schools and Universities.

Such were the feelings and principles of Sir Robert Peel's father, and under such principles were his family educated. At the age of fourteen, Sir Robert was bound to the cotton trade, and was made to apply to business. Upon his holidays, he returned to his father's house, and he is accustomed to relate that he frequently excited the merriment of his family, by anticipating the splendid fortune to which he *resolved* to rise. "I was resolved," he says, "from a boy, to make my fortune and found a family; I knew it could be done by industry, frugality, and economy, and I resolved to practise them. I therefore anticipated from my earliest boyhood that I should be the

founder of a family, and I used to say so in our family meetings. I still remember how my brothers used to laugh at me, but I have kept my word."

Upon the ground of the memorials from which we are writing the present sketch of the family of the Peels, it is manifest, that Sir Robert Peel, the father of the Secretary, possessed from his youth a singular union of genius and prudence; the one impelling him to neglect no opportunity of learning and self-education, whilst the other both instructed him in the proper mode of reading and the choice of books, and restrained his ambition within the attainment of such knowledge as belonged to his condition in life, and the main object at which he was aiming. "I read nothing," says Sir Robert, "but what was useful, or what I could make so; and my mode of reading was, and is this,—I read, say twenty, thirty, or forty pages, and then closed the book, and repeated a summary in my mind of what I had read,—throwing it into some method, and fixing it in my memory: I then reflected on it, and made as much of it my own as was worth the labour." This mode of reading was certainly as effectual as we believe it is singular, and is a no inconsiderable proof of the talents of Sir Robert. He strongly recommended his son, the subject of the present memoir, to follow the same course of reading and study, and in the same mode; and, as the good sense of it recommends itself, we have no doubt he advised it

with good effect. It is, indeed, notorious, that Mr. Secretary Peel (we use this name for distinction) is not only a diligent reader, but one who reads with good effect. At the age of fourteen or fifteen he had made great attainments, and it was the constant labour of Sir Robert both to excite him forwards and to show him the way. Sir Robert seemed in all his words and actions to say,—I have done my part in the acquisition of wealth, it now remains for you to acquire honours for the family.

The splendid success of Mr. Secretary Peel is, however, so closely connected with the solid foundation previously prepared by his father, that the causes will not be so distinct and intelligible, unless we add a few further facts respecting the early life of Sir Robert.

Sir Robert, after having finished his apprenticeship, upon attaining the age of 21, remained two years longer with his master; his father being of opinion that not only a full knowledge of business, but matured habits of steadiness and sobriety, were necessary to success in life, and that many persons had suffered by entering life too soon. Having passed these two years of probation, and the father thinking that his son might now be trusted to enter business as his own *master*, he looked out for a situation for him, and soon found it. The cotton trade was as yet in a state comparatively rude, except immediately in those places in which Sir Richard Arkwright had suc-

ceeded in procuring the adoption of his machinery. Obvious, and, as it might be presumed, unquestionable, as were the advantages of the machinery proposed and invented by Sir R. Arkwright, they encountered in many districts an incredible degree of opposition, as tending to change the habits and manners of the peasantry, and to throw the poor out of employment by substituting machinery for human labour. It was not as yet well understood, that the first result of such machinery would be the working up of such a vast increase of goods, and at such a diminished price, as must greatly augment the sphere and quantity of the consumption; that the commodity would thus be brought into universal demand, and that such demand must require the employment of all hands to supply it. If the quantity made were indeed always to remain the same, the employment of machinery would necessarily displace so much human labour, and give no other compensation for so much evil and misery than the cheaper price of such goods to the public. But as the demand must always increase with the vast and extraordinary reduction of price occasioned by the use of machinery, this increase of demand will require such a proportionate increase of labouring hands, either to work the machinery or to prepare the materials for it, that the effect will eventually be, to augment rather than to diminish the call for human labour.—These principles, however, were not understood

at this early period, and the consequence was, that in many places Sir R. Arkwright's inventions were either not introduced, or were very imperfectly managed and worked, at that time.

One of these places was the town and district of Bury, in Lancashire. Here, accordingly, Sir Robert Peel first began business, in the year 1773 or 1774, as a master manufacturer of cotton. A young man of the name of Yates joined with him as a partner; and so firm, and so well chosen, and so well conducted has this partnership proved, that at the expiration of upwards of fifty years, from 1773 to 1827, it still continues. In this manner, under activity and industry, are small things made great, and a princely fortune accumulated from a capital, which perhaps originally did not exceed that of the grocer of a country town.

Sir Robert appears to have followed the advice of his father in another respect, that of not marrying too early, and interrupting the necessary attention to business by the cares of a family. He remained in business almost fifteen years, and reached the age of nearly forty, before he could induce himself to venture upon a wife. When he had taken the resolution, he made his choice in accordance with another prudent maxim, not to go far to seek that which he might have at home. His partner, Mr. Yates, had married just upon his entering into business, and had now a daughter, a fine young woman seventeen years of age,

To this lady Sir Robert made his addresses, and in the summer of the year 1784 she became his wife. She is the present Lady Peel, the mother of the Secretary; and, according to all accounts, in no speculation has Sir Robert been more fortunate than in the choice and acquisition of a wife. We believe, it is the good custom of Sir Robert always to keep, with due hospitality and merriment, the anniversary of his wedding, the 8th day of July; and we have no doubt but that this day is better known, and more anxiously anticipated in the town of Bury, than the birth-day of his Majesty himself. One thing we have always understood, that a more kind-hearted domestic man than Sir Robert, is not easily to be found. His most striking frailties are all marked with this character. In his social and good-humoured conversation, his very vanity takes no other turn or shape than to boast a little of the good qualities of his children and family, and with so much justice, and good feeling, that it is impossible for the hearts of his hearers not to go with him.

In 1786, the nation first became seriously alarmed at the great amount of the national debt, the magnitude of which became a larger object of observation, by the winding up upon the conclusion of the American war. It was in vain that Lord North had predicted, that the nation would bear taxing whilst it was worth a groat. Dr. Priestley, Price, and others, anticipated the approaching ruin of the country, when taxes should

demand more than a certain proportion of every man's income, and when the wages, prices, and profits of all who lived by trade or labour must become too large to be borne by the rents of land. It entirely escaped these writers, that rents must rise at the same time, and by the same operation, and that, at least, the burthen would thus be distributed in an *equal* proportion throughout the community. It was obvious, therefore, that no particular class would be ruined by the increasing magnitude of the national debt. Sir Robert Peel produced these arguments to the public, in a pamphlet published at this period, which he entitled, "National Debt productive of National Prosperity." A proposition undoubtedly too sweeping to be true, but which, with much false reasoning, and many obvious errors, contains some portion of truth. It is true, for example, that a nation in debt, and an individual in debt, are totally different classes of persons, and that what is true of the one is in no degree a necessary consequence of the other. The debt of a nation is a debt due from a partnership to its several members. The dividends, if collected in taxes from the people, are again distributed out to them; and if they impair the resources of many individuals from whom they are taken, they as certainly improve, or entirely provide the means of those to whom they are given. They extend the sphere of commerce, trade, and industry, to a compass hitherto unknown; raise the price of lands by the

increased demand for its produce—augment the price of manufactures by the greater number of persons whom they enable to purchase—and extend commerce, interior trade, and general industry, by the increased supply which they require, and the increased means which they afford. The pay of the navy, and army, and ordnance departments, enables every soldier, sailor, and artillery-man to consume what he otherwise could not purchase; and it does by no means follow as a necessary consequence, that if the daily pay of every one of these individuals had been left in the pockets of those from whom it has been raised in taxes, that it would have been so totally and equably spent, as it is in its pesent shape.

All these principles are true, and so far the publication of Sir Robert was useful, as it raised the spirits of the people under the incumbering magnitude of the national debt. Since the publication of this work, nearly eight hundred millions have been added to the amount of the debt, and we must presume that experience has taught Sir Robert how to qualify his original proposition. The just principle certainly is, that heavy taxes, or, in other words, an enormous national debt, are a most oppressive burthen to that large majority of the nation, who have to pay them from fixed or small incomes, and have no means of drawing them back through any employment of trade or commerce, which has become proportionately increased by the effect of that debt. Another principle

is equally true—that if such taxes are added by dealers to the price of goods, such increase of price must very shortly exclude all foreigners from our markets.

The active industry of Sir Robert soon began to reap its due reward. In 1787, he commenced his purchases of estates, in pursuance of his plan of founding a family. His first purchase was in Lancashire, and it is to be presumed, upon a small scale. He shortly followed this up by a larger purchase in Staffordshire, where he became the proprietor of the estate of Drayton, on which he now lives, and has succeeded in planting, as he anticipated, his family tree. He was fortunate enough to make those purchases before the enormous quantity of paper and money, which the war caused to be poured into circulation, raised the price of land to its recent height, and he is, therefore, not amongst those, who, being in haste to become landed proprietors, bought land at twice its real worth.

In the year 1790, he proposed himself for a seat in Parliament for the borough of Tamworth, and was returned. Tamworth had hitherto been a prosperous manufacturing town, but previously to the settlement of Sir Robert Peel had greatly declined. The extensive cotton factories of Sir Robert gave an entire new face to its circumstances; there was trade for every shopkeeper, and wages and employment for every workman. The political character of Tamworth changed with its cir-

cumstances. It had hitherto been a rotten borough belonging to one great family or other, or selling its votes to the highest bidder. Sir Robert, as its best benefactor, now became its acknowledged patron—and thereafter its undisputed proprietor.

Upon the first breaking out of the French Revolution, Sir Robert Peel distinguished himself as the advocate of a temperate reform, and together with a very great majority of the most enlightened Englishmen at that period, he too sanguinely anticipated that such was the object of this revolution, and that such would be its ultimate fruits. But his eyes were no sooner opened by the atrocious excesses of the French demagogues, and by the impious madness and folly of the French Philosophers who impelled them forwards,—than he saw and acknowledged the necessity of defending in time the established principles of religion and morality against the atrocious wickedness of the French leaders. The murder of the king dispelled all doubt of the character of these men, and the general massacres which immediately followed, shewed what would be the excesses of a nation, when they had thrown aside all the restraints of religious faith and practice. Perhaps, the world has never beheld so much iniquity as during the first ten years of the French Revolution. It is greatly to the honour of the large majority of the people of England, that they became utterly disgusted at the atrocious

spectacle, and that no war in the whole compass of our history has ever been more popular than that which we waged against the French Revolution.

During the whole of this war, no one could exceed the zeal and loyalty of the Peels and their connexions. Sir Robert raised a volunteer regiment, or rather corps, from his own manufacturers in Tamworth and its vicinity, and having offered their services to Government, and procured them to be accepted, he was appointed their Lieutenant-Colonel. In a speech which he made at their head, he exhorted them to remember not only their king and country, but their own condition as freemen and respectable yeomanry. Let us show by our own example, said he, that there is nothing in the service or condition of a soldier which is inconsistent with the most respectable qualities of a good citizen.

In the year 1797, when all the loyal portion of our countrymen, whose private fortunes afforded them the opportunity, came forward with the offer of a voluntary subscription in aid of Government; Sir Robert Peel and his partner subscribed the princely amount of ten thousand pounds. This conduct was so justly estimated by Government, and perhaps was so pleasing to his late Majesty, that he was immediately a marked man for royal and ministerial patronage. We believe, that it was about this time that he was raised to the dignity of a Baronet.

Upon the termination of the war, a new minis-

try succeeded temporarily to Mr. Pitt, and the opposition availed themselves of some opportunity to make a violent attack upon the conduct of the war by Mr. Pitt, and the state to which he had reduced the national revenue by his impolitic perseverance. Sir Robert Peel rose in his place in the House of Commons, and made a reply characterized as much by ability as generosity. He explained in a very clear and forcible manner, how much Mr. Pitt had improved the trade and commerce of the country, and how every branch and class of national property had increased under his administration. In the course of his direction of public affairs, the value of land had almost in all places doubled itself, and in manufacturing districts had trebled and quadrupled itself. In commerce, his measures had carried the British flag into the remotest seas and islands, and had at least trebled its former amount, both as to the tonnage of ships, and as to the value of the exports and imports. As regarded interior trade, it was impossible not to see to what extent it had been increased in every county in England, and how much wealth was distributed through every town, and almost every village in the kingdom. In this manner, he followed the effects of Mr. Pitt's administration through every part which composed it, and executed this purpose with so much ability, as to produce a great impression upon the house and country. On the following day, a meeting was called at the Royal Exchange, and resolutions were carried for erect-

ing a statue to Mr. Pitt. This was another service, and a very considerable one, which Sir Robert rendered to the ministry and government.

One of the most benevolent actions of Sir Robert Peel was his introduction, and the successful carrying through the House, of the Bill for improving the condition of Apprentices in the Cotton Trade. We have before had occasion to observe, that the increase of the cotton manufacture has been so great as to out-run all the improvements for abridging human labour by machinery, and thus, in despite of the productive powers of machinery, to require a supply of many thousand additional hands to work and attend the mills. These persons, who are mostly women and children, are usually taken from the workhouses in the capital and other large towns, and are thence sent down to the several factories, by whom they are engaged and employed.

In their eagerness to rid themselves of an oppressive burthen, there cannot be a doubt that overseers and parishes, and perhaps, sometimes, even parents, overlook their most serious duties, and are more anxious for the employment of the children, than for the due care of their health, morals, and that decent education which the children of Christian parents ought to receive. The children are thus sent into factories, in which the air is rendered foul from the want of due space, and where there is little attention to the essential requisites of cleanliness, morals, and religious

habits. The children are cruelly over-worked, and, from the contagion of bad example, the factory becomes a pest-house of disease and vice. Sir Robert Peel had often, as he stated, observed this evil, and lamented its private and public consequences; and in the year 1801, he brought in the bill in question to apply a suitable remedy.

Sir Robert had begun this reform in the right mode,—he had set the example in his own factory. He took care to provide all those under his roof with wholesome food and well aired rooms; and he established a set of rules, which secured cleanliness in their working rooms, their sleeping apartments, and in their persons. For the purpose of instructing them in the principles of religion and morality, he hired a schoolmaster for every working room, to whom each child was required to read once a day. It is incredible that a bill like this should encounter any opposition, if it were not notorious that gain only is the object with the great majority of traders and manufacturers. Under the general principle of not interfering with free labour, and not intermeddling between master and men, the bill, if we rightly remember, was opposed in every stage, and was at length carried only by the creditable perseverance of Sir Robert, and the humanity of the House of Commons.

When it is remembered, as it ought to be, that Sir Robert Peel alone employs fifteen thousand

persons in his own factory, and that the provisions of this bill abridged the hours of labour of all these persons; it will be clearly understood, that Sir Robert himself made at least some sacrifice to his duty. It is still to be lamented, that this measure has not been more comprehensive, and, that better provisions are not made to prevent the employment of children at an age too early for their health and growth. It is surely contrary to every principle of humanity, and therein of our duty as Christians, to sacrifice the health, strength, and growth of children by such a mode of work, and at such an early age. The advantage of trade, and the gains of the master and the public as manufacturers, are no answer, unless gain is the main consideration, and is well purchased even at the sacrifice of humanity. If we should have to pay more for our cottons by another system, it would be well paid to avoid so much human misery and suffering. Sir Robert Peel has done something, but much still remains to be done before any man of common humanity can be satisfied with the known effects of these factories upon the health and morals of children.

The extent of the cotton trade, as a national manufacture, and now the first of our staples beyond all comparison, is so connected with the family of the Peels, and is a subject so necessary to be known by all those who aspire to perform a part in public life, that we shall here add a few

facts, which in a short compass will shew both the progress of that trade from small beginnings, and its present state and importance.

It is scarcely necessary to observe, that Lancashire, as a county, is the least fertile of any other in England, but excels most of them in three very important means and aids for a manufacturing district, — abundant coal-mines, — pure and clear waters, and strong running streams. Under these facilities, Lancashire has become the seat of British manufactures, and the emporium of the cotton trade. And these advantages are so great and divided in this county, as not only to have caused the original institution of these manufactures, but to secure it at all future times from the rivalry and competition of foreigners. Many of our political writers and speakers have expressed their apprehension,—lest, under the increasing rate of wages, and by the gradual acquisition of machinery, foreigners should at length succeed in wresting this manufacture from us, so far, at least, as to supply America and the Continental markets. Not so Sir Robert,— he has no apprehension of the kind,—his argument is, that the cotton manufacture is as national as our English roast beef, and as far above all foreign competition. It is founded in the nature, habits, and ingenuity of our workmen,—in the long accumulated magnitude of British capital, and in the physical circumstances of our country,—in the abundance of our coals,—the purity of our waters,—and the number of our

running streams. Three things are mainly necessary to a manufacturing district,—coals, water, and large capital; to which may be added, steady industry, and no apprehension for the safety of property from the despotism of the government, or popular violence (as in Ireland). Now, where are these things to be found but in England, and in what part of England in such perfection as in our northern counties. This is the substance of Sir Robert's argument for the permanence of our cotton manufacture, and it is impossible to deny its conclusive force. It is, certainly, the happy nature of our Constitution, that the laws encourage our traders and manufacturers to embark princely fortunes, and that no man has any apprehension, like an Irish master manufacturer, that his house, his factory, and himself, may be all burned together in some dark night.

Under these facilities and encouragements, the present state of the cotton manufacture in England is certainly most astonishing. The capital employed in this trade and its dependent branches amounts to twenty millions, and the people supported by it are eight hundred thousand.

Sir Richard Arkwright was unquestionably the first, who, by the invention of the spinning jenny, and the improvement, if not the first application, of the carding mill, gave the impetus to this manufacture, and raised it into an equal rival with our former staple, the woollen manufacture. In progress of time, the inventions of Sir Richard

have been so greatly improved and simplified, and so many new mechanical principles brought into action, that the cotton works are now very different from the condition in which he left them. In 1780, Sir Richard's time, the quantity of imported raw cotton did not exceed five million pounds weight. At the present day, our importation of raw cotton is nearly *fifty* million pounds weight.

There are no documents so sufficiently full and exact, as to enable us to compute the respective quantity of cotton manufacture used at home and abroad; but we may approach to a just conclusion from the quantity of raw cotton now imported. This amount, as we have above said, is nearly fifty million pounds weight. Now, of this quantity, five million pounds weight is re-exported to Ireland and the Continent as cotton twist, that is, as cotton in the first stage of its manufacture. The remaining forty-five million pounds weight is therefore worked up in manufactured goods. Now, it is calculated that the pound of cotton, in a manufactured state, is worth eight shillings. This rate, in forty-five million pounds weight, would give a sum of *twenty* million pounds sterling for the value of this manufacture annually. An immense sum to be distributed yearly throughout the kingdom by one branch of our manufactures only.

In confirmation of the importance of this manufacture to the trade and revenue of Great Bri-

tain, it remains to be added, that Sir Robert Peel's house alone pays *forty thousand pounds* annually to the Excise for printed goods.

Such is the vast consequence of this branch of our national manufactures, and so much does it concern our ministers and public men to maintain and advance its progress. Two great national interests are intimately involved in the prosperity of our manufactures,—the employment of the great majority of our population, and the supply of the public revenue. Perhaps, the first of these, the employment of the poor, is the most valuable fruit and effect of the prosperity of our manufactures, as by these means the majority of the nation is thus, in fact, fed. Without manufactures, the populace of a country have no means of earning their support, and must rely upon the funds of charity. Agriculture requires comparatively but few hands; and if an agricultural country is at the same time a populous one, it is in a miserable condition. This is the state of Ireland, and this is the cause that her people are so wretched;—there are no manufactures to employ those whom agriculture does not require, at least, the imperfect agriculture of Ireland.

It gives us great satisfaction to be enabled to add, that, according to all credible accounts, no one better deserves his success in life than Sir Robert Peel. He has acquired a princely fortune, and he expends it in a style and manner very unusual with persons in his condition in life. Though he is

himself what must be called an uneducated man, or rather, a man self-educated by means of the profitable employment of his own leisure time, no one, it would appear, knows better how to appreciate the true value of education. All his sons have gone through the regular course of a classical school and the University, and one of them is a very distinguished scholar. In his manners, whilst in good strength and health, Sir Robert is a manly, well informed, and social character,—well read in books of knowledge, if not of criticism and the fine arts. In the course of his life, he has necessarily come into contact with a great variety of characters, and this experience has given him a great insight into men and manners. He is distinguished for acute observation, and what is very honourable and very unusual in such characters, for great frankness.

In business, he is said to possess a most extraordinary degree of skill, and to carry such an order and simplicity through a most large and complicated concern, as to be entitled to the praise of genius. In his single manufactory, he unites all the various branches and divisions of the cotton trade, and contrives to have every branch well executed. He is said to superintend all this quantity of business with as much ease and simplicity as with diligence and effect. He never seems, as our document states, sinking with care, nor overwhelmed with anxiety.

A manufactory of such extent, and concerns of

such magnitude, necessarily require a number of agents; and as the trust is large, and the functions to be rendered difficult, the agents must be well qualified in skill, and of unexceptionable character. Sir Robert has been well served in this respect. He has showed his ability in the choice of proper persons, and his discreet liberality in rewarding them. These two things must always go together. If a man wish to be well served, he must begin by being a good master.

But of all the qualities for which Sir Robert deserves the fullest praise from his biographer, his exemplary performance of the public duties of religion, and his exact observance of the Sabbath, stand at the head. Every Sunday he may be seen at his village church with his children and servants; and it is to be presumed, that there is a like attention to the duties of private worship in his family. It is extremely pleasing to see traits like these in the family and household of a man engaged in the busiest concerns of human life. Happily for the best interest of England, the practice of family worship, morning and evening, is the common usage of almost every gentleman's family in the country, but we fear that it is not so general in houses of trade and business. But if our tradesmen and our manufacturers would but observe its most happy and sensible effect upon the members of those families in which it is practised, no other argument would be necessary to lead them to adopt a course of daily life which

renders children sober and dutiful, servants faithful and attached, and brings down the manifest blessing of Providence upon families and individuals.

In the minor qualities of a country gentleman, Sir Robert does not fall short of what belongs to such a character in the daily intercourse of life. At his table, he is hospitable, and without any offensive ostentation. He is a liberal subscriber to public charities, and is a governor, president, or deputy, of many of these institutions. He is one of the Governors of Christ's Hospital, and a Vice-President of the Literary Fund. We are still more pleased to see his name amongst the Society for Bettering the Condition of the Poor, a society of another kind, and of far higher claims than any literary society whatsoever, though it certainly becomes those who can afford it to assist the funds of every public charity. To this latter society Sir Robert has given a donation of £1000. Our materials add, that he is equally exemplary in attention to the claims of the poor around him, in those at Tamworth in Staffordshire, and Bury in Lancashire.

Having been born in 1750, Sir Robert is of course much advanced in age, but, as his form and stature were originally manly and athletic, we trust that he still enjoys that portion of health and strength, which sometimes accompany even advanced age, where youth has been sober and industrious, and manhood active and temperate.

We have already had occasion to mention, that Sir Robert Peel was married in the year 1787, and that his eldest son, Robert, the subject of the following brief memoir, was born about the year 1788. Sir Robert had nearly reached the mature age of forty at the time of his marriage, whilst his lady, Miss Yates, the daughter of his partner, was only seventeen. Mr. Peel, therefore, was born, whilst his mother was yet in her eighteenth year.

Very great care appears to have been taken in the early education of Mr. Peel. In a speech in the House of Commons, pronounced by Sir Robert when his eldest son first made a creditable display of his talents, with an honest heartiness, he publicly expressed his complacent feelings; that his boy had so well performed his duty! "I remember," he said, addressing himself to the good-humoured House, "when I used to observe that boy whilst a youth—and when I already anticipated that he would hereafter confer honour upon himself and his family."—This observation, which would have covered another man with ridicule, was so much in character with the known good qualities of Sir Robert, and was evidently spoken so much upon the spur of the moment, and with all the good feelings of the father, that the House received it as frankly as it was spoken.

Amongst other useful instructions, Sir Robert taught his son one maxim of great practical utility. This is comprehended in the significant

Latin aphorism, *hoc age*—or in other words, "attend always to the business in hand, and do it in earnest. If you read, see that you not only understand your author, but that you carry his knowledge away with you. When you have read as much as you can conveniently remember, shut the book, and compress and arrange the matter (as much of it as is worth the trouble) in your own mind. Then go on again." We have before had occasion to mention, that this was Sir Robert's own mode of reading, and that by the aid of it he educated himself in the midst of the complicated business of the largest manufactory in the kingdom. Sir Robert, indeed, in this respect, as well as in his strong natural talents, very much resembles Mr. Cobbett, who had to contend against the same defects of early education, and who in the same manner overcame them.

We have reason indeed to believe, that Mr. Peel owes the most valuable portion of what knowledge he possesses, to the domestic instruction of his father, and to his careful supervision of his education. We have heard that Mr. Peel was educated at Harrow, and with every due respect for public schools, we should be afraid to say that this has been any advantage to him. Two things are certainly best attained in the public schools of Westminster, Winchester, and Eton, a more exact and ready knowledge of the classics, and a more easy and confident address in the future intercourse of life and busi-

ness. Both of these are possessed so sufficiently by Mr. Peel, as to leave him nothing to desire upon this head. In this respect, indeed, he very far excels Lord Goderich. Lord Goderich, perhaps, could quote Virgil with more readiness, but we have very little doubt, that in a passage of Tacitus, or in a sentence from one of the speeches of Sallust, Mr. Peel would have a very decided advantage. With all his experience, and many very excellent qualities, Lord Goderich is still the school-boy, whilst Mr. Peel never speaks without some knowledge of his subject, and never offends against taste and propriety.

About the year 1809, Mr. Peel was transferred from school to Oxford, and became a Gentleman Commoner of Christ-church. We do not recollect, whether the celebrated Dr. Cyril Jackson was at that time living, and Dean of the college, but certainly the discipline and mode of study introduced by him in Christ-church was still maintained. It was the character of the system introduced by that eminent scholar, that every man, whom wealth, rank, or conspicuous talents, marked out for public life, should be exactly and industriously formed to the manners of the gentleman, and to a steadfast maintenance of the established principles in church and state. According to the Dean of Christ-church, no one was fitted to take the lead in the English House of Commons, and to aspire to the first offices of the state, who was not equally distinguished for the politeness of the

gentleman, and for the attainments of a ripe and good scholar. It is incredible, how much may be effected by the silent and sure influence of personal example. Dr. Jackson was in himself an exemplification of the precepts which he sought to instil. Under this eminent man, Mr. Peel, and many other of the greatest characters of the day, were formed for public life, and we have no doubt, were directed in the mode of study, and in the choice of books. In most of the other colleges of Oxford, the students were in this respect left entirely to themselves; nothing more being required of them, than that they should be able to construe that small passage of Quintilian, or Sallust, which might fall to their turn in the hall lecture; and might at least be able to accompany the tutor, whilst he proved some proposition in the first four books of Euclid. Nothing more was required to pass through the college, and in our time, nothing more was required to obtain a degree. At Christ-church, we believe, it was never so; and in all the colleges more attention is now paid to the due instruction of the students. Twenty years ago there was no such book as Paley's Moral Philosophy, in which the principles of Ethics might be taught, divested from the pedantry and jargon of the early schoolmen. At this former period, the place of Paley was very ill supplied by the heavy and tasteless volumes of Rutherford and Burlemaqui; the first of whom employs nearly half an octavo volume, to explain and establish

the obligation of an oath; whilst the latter author confounds himself and his reader by his technical requisites, to constitute what he calls a moral sovereignty, and the rule of right. Such writers as Paley, Vattel, Vinnius, Domat, and Grotius De Jure Pacis et Belli, were never seen. In a word, there was nothing like a liberal and effectual system of instruction, or any aid or direction for self-education. It is with the greatest satisfaction that we are enabled to add, that in this respect every thing has been totally altered; and that hereafter it must be the fault of the student himself, if he be not fitted for the practical business of life in its higher departments, in the superior colleges of Oxford and Cambridge. Perhaps, there is still wanting a more effectual supervision of the time and morals of the young men, and a more strict discipline both within and without the colleges. There can be no good reason why the heads of colleges should still allow the ruinous and dissipated style of living and entertaining by young men in their own rooms, and should even authorise it, by permitting the butlers and cooks of the several colleges to supply these costly treats, and give credit to the students. To say nothing of the ruinous consequences of such an expenditure to the young men, or their parents, let it be simply asked, what is the description of habits thus contracted; and how unfit are young men, so formed, to enter upon those several functions for which the majority of them are educated? Is it

not within the knowledge of too many of us, that many, very many fathers have most deeply to lament the hour in which they sent their sons to the University of Oxford or Cambridge? How many youths are entirely ruined, or, if the young man be happily saved against all probability, how many fathers and families are led into almost inextricable distress, by discharging the ruinous debts so contracted by their children?

Upon taking his degree, Mr. Peel much distinguished himself, and gave an earnest of the abilities which he so soon afterwards exhibited. Upon this subject it is impossible not to make one observation,— that almost all the public men of the present day, who have issued from the walls of either University, gave an early promise of their eminence, even whilst young men at college. It is now nearly sixty years since the late Lord Chancellor, Earl Eldon, was a young bachelor of arts at Oxford, and distinguished himself by an essay on the advantages and disadvantages of Foreign Travel, by which he gained first a University prize, and was afterwards elected a fellow of his college, worth about one hundred and twenty pounds a year. About fifteen years after this occurrence, the present Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, Lord Tenterden, at that time a young man at Corpus College, Oxford, obtained a University prize for the best prose Essay, "On the Use or Abuse of Satire." And two years before

that period, the same nobleman, then Mr. Abbott, gained the prize for the best composition in Latin Verse, the subject being, The Balloon, which the celebrated Lunardi had about that time rendered a current topic. The late Speaker of the House of Commons, Lord Colchester, gained, we believe, one or two of these prizes, as did the Marquis Wellesley; Van Mildert, bishop of Durham; Mant, bishop of Killaloe; Lord Sidmouth; Canning; Copleston, and many other men of the same æra. Nor should we forget in this list the present Lord Chancellor, of Trinity College Cambridge, who a few years after Mr. Abbott, also gained a University prize.

Having passed through college with so much distinction, it is no just subject of surprise, that Mr. Peel was marked out for the favour of the University upon the first suitable occasion. Accordingly this opportunity no sooner presented itself, than the high collegiate honour, that of representing the University in Parliament, was conferred upon him. From the year 1768 to 1806, a period of nearly forty years, the University had been represented by one of the worthiest men in the kingdom, the late Sir William Dolben, of Finedon, in Northamptonshire, who had been educated at Westminster, and had thence passed to Christchurch as a student; but whose main claim to this high honour was his known attachment to our Constitution in Church and State, and his high

character for moral and religious worth. In 1805 or 1806, Sir William Dolben died, and was succeeded in the representation of the University, by the Speaker of the House of Commons, afterwards Lord Colchester. Upon the Speaker becoming a peer, Mr. Peel was elected in his place.

Mr. Peel had scarcely entered upon the stage of public life, before he was appointed to an office of the first dignity and consequence. The kingdom of Ireland had for many years been agitated by the two factions into which that country is unhappily divided; and the king and the government deemed it necessary, that a Secretary of known abilities, and of an unquestionable attachment to the Protestant interest, should accompany the Lord Lieutenant, and support the predominance of the Established Church in that portion of our empire. Mr. Peel was accordingly appointed Secretary for Ireland.

In the execution of the duties of this office, Mr. Peel performed all that had been expected of him; and is still remembered with a zealous regard by the majority of the Irish Protestants; whilst at the same time he exercised such a wise moderation as not unnecessarily to exasperate the opposite party, he knew and felt, that it was his first duty to support the fundamental principle of the British Constitution, the Protestant ascendancy in Ireland. But he at the same time well understood, that toleration, in the proper sense of the

term, not the equalization and encouragement of truth and error, were amongst the civil rights of men; and that religious truth is to be spread by teaching and persuasion, and not by the compulsory power of the magistrate. In the conduct he observed towards the two powerful parties in Ireland, he adhered to these principles. Whilst he directed all the favour and power of the court towards the party whom he knew to be right, he discountenanced every attempt at persecution against those of the opposite feeling, and always acknowledged and avowed their right to such a toleration as would not extend and confirm their religious errors. Every thing beyond this limit he knew and felt would amount to a positive encouragement of a pernicious superstition, and would thus be equally contrary to his duty as a Christian, and to his functions as a high officer of a Protestant monarch.

Whilst in Ireland, he had an opportunity of displaying another prominent feature in his character—his intelligent humanity. From the general poverty of the Irish peasantry, and the failure, we believe, of their main dependence, the potatoe crop, a contagious fever had seized upon whole districts, and the peasantry were dying by families in their huts and cabins. A due representation of this unhappy state of things was made to Mr. Peel, and he immediately exerted himself to apply the proper remedy, and afford all

the aid which it was in the power of Government to bestow. It is an admitted principle, that even Government cannot undertake the gratuitous support of the great majority of a population, as no Government can have funds adequate to such a purpose, and as it would be contrary to all principle entirely to supersede the exercise of every man's own reason and prudence, and to supply him without the necessity of his own industry from the funds of the state. It is equally inconsistent with all sound principles of public policy, either that the rich should be *compelled* entirely to support and maintain the poor, or that the poor should be *sure* of this support without the utmost exercise of their own labour and industry. The obligation to maintain the poor *entirely* upon the rich, would very shortly make every one poor alike, and would be such a violent invasion upon private property, as is contrary to the very nature of government. The maintenance of the poor, at all events, and without the preliminary requisite of their own industry and labour, would be equally fatal to the character and condition of the poor themselves, and to the welfare of the country, which can only arise from the active industry of its population. Mr. Peel, therefore, found himself in circumstances of the greatest difficulty, and we have always understood that he conducted himself through that unhappy period with a due observance of the principles on both sides. The

people of Ireland were very effectually relieved, and a greater burthen was not thrown upon the farmer and manufacturer, than, under the peculiar circumstances of the country, it was their duty to bear.

When he returned from Ireland, Mr. Peel met with that reception which his active services so well merited, and, upon the retirement of Lord Sidmouth, he became Secretary of State. In the execution of this office, he continued to afford the same example of energy in the performance of his duties, and of moderation in the use of his power. It is scarcely necessary to add, that it belongs to the office of the Home Secretary to superintend the magistracy and police of the kingdom, and to provide for the due maintenance of the public peace. The Home Secretary has therefore the patronage of all the police magistrates—the salaried chairmen of the Quarter Sessions, and the commissioners of the Insolvent Court. With respect to the police magistrates, Mr. Peel was of opinion that they were not sufficiently paid for the arduous duties which they had to perform, and that the public interest required, in the first place, that men of due qualification and respectability should be chosen, and secondly, that the salary should be such as would induce gentlemen so qualified to give their services. In order to effect this object, Mr. Peel, we believe, raised the salaries of these sixteen or seventeen magistrates from £600 to £800 *per annum*, and adopted it

as a rule of his office, to give the future appointments to barristers only. The salaried chairmen of Quarter Sessions do not exceed, we believe, about four or five in number—such as those of Middlesex, Manchester, &c. Their salaries may vary from £1200 to £1000 *per annum;* these likewise are in the patronage of the Home Office, and are bestowed upon a principle which we have never heard censured—that is, the wishes of the county are consulted, and the situation is bestowed upon some active and intelligent magistrate of the county in which he has to act. The commissioners of the Insolvent Court, three in number, receive each £1200 a-year,—the chairman has £1500. The only commissioner who has been appointed by Mr. Peel, is Mr. Law, son of the late Lord Ellenborough, and brother of the present—an appointment which, we will venture to say, has given very general satisfaction.

Besides this patronage, Mr. Peel, as Home Secretary, has the appointment of the eight or ten commissioners for examining and reporting on public charities—a commission procured by Mr. Brougham, but the utility of which, we fear, has hitherto been almost confined to reporting. Mr. Brougham, or those who shall hereafter imitate him in proposing such commissions in future, would do well to propose, in addition to the principal commission, a supplemental board, whose duty should be to read, examine, and digest these reports, and

institute proceedings in the proper courts, for carrying into effect the prosecutions and actions suggested by the commissioners. Under the present system, the inquiry will probably terminate in nothing but twenty or thirty vast folio volumes of reports, which very few will read, and none will consider it to be their due to act upon. Though we differ from Mr. Brougham upon almost every possible subject, and should be induced almost to quit the country of which he should become a first minister, we thoroughly and cordially wish well to the labours of this commission, and, therefore, we see, with no inconsiderable regret, that it is now proceeding in a mode almost utterly useless—publishing reports which no one reads, and suggesting abuses which no one deems it his duty to seek to remedy. The places, or offices of these commissioners are worth £1000 *per annum;* and, as vacancies occur, Mr. Peel has the appointment.

Mr. Peel is married to a very beautiful woman, whose portrait by Sir Thomas Lawrence has been publicly exhibited. He appears to be exceedingly attached to his family, by one or other of whom he is always accompanied. In office, they become his associates, as, out of office, they are his companions. They are all men of education, and well qualified to fill the situations to which their brother has appointed them.

One of his brothers, Mr. William Peel, is his

under-secretary,—Mr. Lawrence Peel, another brother, is one of the commissioners (but without a salary) of the Board of Control—Mr. Dawson, his brother-in-law, is one of the Joint Secretaries of the Treasury.

Since Mr. Peel's return to office, he has continued to exhibit the same pleasing example of simplicity in private life, and modesty, candour, and moderation in the exercise of all his public duties. May he long remain in an office which he so ably and so honestly fills.

Whilst Mr. Peel was in Ireland, he had the means of forming that close alliance and intimate acquaintance with the family of the Wellesleys, which has since improved into his present political association. During his secretaryship in Ireland, he had the opportunity of visiting the ancient and romantic castle of Dangan, in the county of Meath, the ancient seat of the Wellesleys, the birth-place of the Duke of Wellington. As scenes of nature, and histories of domestic life, and particularly where they regard the early years of a character like the Duke of Wellington, are necessarily more interesting than the narrative of mere political events, we shall briefly add the description of this romantic place, and shall use the words (with some very slight variation) of an intelligent and accomplished tourist, who visited this scene during the secretaryship of Mr. Peel, though in no way connected with him:—

"Being desirous of seeing the ancient Castle of Dangan, the birth-place of the hero of our day, we left Dublin for Summer Hill, a village about thirty miles from Dublin, and a very short distance from Dangan Castle. It was in the autumn, and, as we reached Summer Hill late, we went quietly to bed—deferring the object of our curiosity till the morning.

"We arose almost with the sun on the following morning, and after a rural breakfast in one of the prettiest villages in Ireland, Summer Hill, we set forth on our walk to Dangan. The day brightened as we left the village, and we saw at a mile's distance the gates and woods of Dangan. We passed down the side of the domain wall, and, pursuing a noble road with woods on each side, at length reached an eminence, whence Dangan Castle burst on our view. Its windows glistened in the morning sun, and the many coloured foliage added highly to its beauty.

"Having walked over the domain, we proceeded to the castle, and examined the interior of it. It is now quite a ruin, having been sold by Lord Wellesley, and, since the sale, has passed through many hands. It had, moreover, suffered recently by some fire, so as to look more picturesquely in a distant prospect than upon a close inspection. The shell of the castle, which had so fine an effect, with its battlements and turrets amongst the surrounding woods, had a very different aspect as we

approached it. Still it appeared to us as historic ground, and we lingered long in the domain and its vicinity.

"We passed the rest of the day in walking through the adjacent country, which is fertile and well cultivated. From every part of the landscape, the woods, and frequently the castle of Dangan were to be seen. We continued to walk through this wild and romantic scenery, and could not but be pleased with the varied landscapes of a fine corn country, always terminated, and, as it were, framed by the beautiful and extensive woods of Dangan. We stopped at an humble Irish cottage; the inhabitants produced a repast of potatoes and milk, of which we of course partook. How exceedingly cheaply are the Irish peasantry maintained—how cheaply might even an English family, and of the first respectability, live most substantially in Ireland. The largest and fattest fowl is six-pence or seven-pence—a goose thirteen-pence—a turkey the same; taxes almost nothing, and labour not a shilling *per* day. The rent of land is about twenty-five shillings the English acre, and in taking a domain of fifty or sixty acres the house is rated at nothing, being included in the rent. On such a domain as this, the tenant might feed fifty or sixty sheep, four cows, and four horses—two for his wife's carriage, and two riding ones for himself. He might kill a sheep every week—use the legs and loins and saddle for him-

self, and send the other to market. In a word, almost his whole annual expense would be the rent of the land, about £70 a-year, and that of replacing his sheep as he killed them off. The wages of maid-servants are about four pounds a-year—of a coachman about ten. Every family make their own candles and soap. This is the office of the cook. Where is the necessity of an English family going to France, when they have such a country at hand?

"We returned to Summer Hill to sleep, and again forgot the dreams of ambition, and all the schemes of busy life, in a quiet slumber at a village inn. With the first gleaming of the golden sun, illuminating the peaceful village, we set out for Trim. This noble orb of day is the best friend and most cheerful companion of the early traveller. To see him so frequently light up various and new scenes, gilding the landscape with his yellow lustre, is one of the many advantages of the morning traveller. As he now advanced rejoicing in the East, and we rejoicing with him, we again approached Dangan Castle on our way to Trim. Again we beheld the cradle of our Wellington, and the baronial edifice of King John, for in his reign it was built. The first dawn of the morning was on its walls; the autumnal woods reddened with the rising sun; the cheerful redbreast poured forth its song; and the sheep grazed through the domain. It was altogether a picture of exquisite rural beauty and country repose.

"Proceeding towards Trim, (a country town thirty miles from Dublin), we passed through some of the finest and best cultivated land, we had seen in Ireland. Good farm-houses, large fields, and every appearance of good crops and proper cultivation, showed us what Ireland might become under due culture. We learned a very interesting fact from the country people—that when the Marquis Wellesley was about selling his castle and estate at Dangan, the Duke of Wellington, leaving the castle, hired a small country house in the neighbourhood of Trim, and, with great modesty and privacy, lived at it for two or three years. This, then, was his chosen retreat and residence before he distinguished himself in India. Here he formed his mind, and quietly collected that energy, firmness, and decision of character—that disregard of ostentation, and manly preference for simplicity and directness, which have always distinguished him in public life. We resolved to visit this country house, and, having made the necessary inquiries, took the road to it.

"We soon saw it; it was near the road, and within a mile of Trim, buried in the trees. We stopped at the gate of the avenue—a short road, with trees on both sides. The house is perfectly rural, with a small lawn and pretty shrubberies round it; but very simple and countrified, and just fit for a small domestic family. We obtained admission, and found the apartments in the same

style as the house, but on the most modest scale. The garden pleased us most—it is quite rural. The best of our living poets has conveyed a most suitable description of it in some very elegant lines.

Who would imagine that in this little country house, in this little blackbird's nest, in the year 1799, whilst Buonaparte was crossing the Alps to fight the battle of Marengo, there lived a youth, who, in fifteen years afterwards, was to head the armies of Europe, and, in the field of Waterloo, put an effectual stop to the victorious and mad career of this scourge of the world.

"Upon bidding farewell to this interesting little spot, we passed on to Trim, a considerable Irish country town. The old castle is the most striking and picturesque feature of the place. It is situated upon the memorable Boyne, which is here about as wide as the Thames at Richmond, and is beautifully blue. When Marquis Wellesley sold his castle at Dangan, he resided some time here. Trim is likewise remarkable for the occasional residence of Swift, his parsonage, at Laracor, being near it.

"Having rested ourselves at Trim, we proceeded for Navan in our way to Dublin, intending to sleep at Navan, and thus leisurely examine the country in our progress. I am sorry to be compelled to add, that the peasantry are in a wretched state along this road. Their cottages are built of mud—and have no gardens, and no chimneys—

Meath, however, is a fine arable county, but the want of the sheltered cot, and the well fenced farm, render the scenery uninteresting, except where gentlemen's seats occur, which are here called domains. We had fine views of the Boyne from the road, and as many of the domains are walled round, and have a belt of trees over-topping the walls, there are certainly many pleasing landscapes and images. An Irish domain, that is, a country seat and its house-grounds, contains usually from twenty-five to forty English acres; the lawn and gardens of which may be about four or five; the remainder are so many fields for cows and sheep. In the larger domains is what is called a deer park, which is nothing more than a large field of about thirty acres, walled round.

"We reached Navan in the evening, and found the country immediately around it very pretty. It was the close of the market-day when we entered our inn. We found the house not extremely clean, but we had a good and plentiful dinner. In a short time the rain fell in torrents, and in going to the window to see the violence with which it came down, we witnessed a scene strongly illustrative of the extreme poverty of Ireland. In the middle of the market-place, and under all the pouring rain, was a small farmer's cart, with a quantity of buttermilk for sale. The poor people from every part of the town, were assembled around this cart, and buying the buttermilk at a

halfpenny a quart. A woman and a boy, wholly regardless of the heavy and chilling rain, were serving it out to them.

"Having passed the night at Navan, we quitted it, at a very early hour in the morning, intending to pass through Slane, the Marquis of Conyngham's seat, in our way to Dublin. A very fine morning had succeeded the rain, and we pursued our way, through a beautiful and smiling country, along the banks of the Boyne. We passed several charming villas, and particularly Mr. Buxton's, near Navan. To enumerate all would be impossible. Sometimes the ruined, but still towering castle, stood near this fine stream, reminding us of ancient grandeur and feudal times. Here and there we passed a good substantial farm house, and sometimes a gentleman's seat, with its tasteful plantations, or ancient woods. The orient beams of the pleasant sun made every thing gay and cheerful, and we soon came near Slane, the Marquis of Conyngham's. Suddenly, from the brow of a hill, a noble view of the woods, castle, and village of Slane, opened upon us; the beautiful Boyne gliding among its trees and meadows, and gently washing the green declivity on which the Marquis's castle stands.

"We passed through the domain on our way to the village of Slane, and were delighted at every step. The castle is of that modern antique, which, however fashionable, and even picturesque, is not

exactly in good taste. Feudal grandeur has a sort of wild magnificence very ill sorted with the appendages of modern life. The powdered footman ill replaces the armed squire or belted soldier. The modern gentleman, modestly dressed, and all the elegant simplicity of his family, are not equal substitutes for the warlike and haughty baron in armour, and his stately dame, in her gorgeous apparel. The antient picturesque air of the castle, and its inhabitants, and of the interior and environs, no longer exist. A century or two hence, some of these buildings may make fine ruins, but however handsome they may be at present, they have little of the proper picturesque effect. Slane castle is, however, a very noble building; its situation on the banks of the Boyne, enriched on all sides by the finest trees and woods, is truly charming. As the Marquis of Conyngham was from home, we did not visit the interior. We directed our way to the village of Slane, travelling on a road along the Boyne, adorned with trees worthy of England.

"We were much pleased with the village of Slane; the houses are modern, and some of them handsome. The views from this village are quite delightful, and the vicinity of Slane Castle, the Boyne, and Lord Conyngham's seat, all placed in a fertile country, make it a most pleasing retreat.

"In pursuing our road for Dublin, we had occasion to observe how much agriculture was affected

by the proximity of the capital, and by the high prices of its markets. There were no small farmers. We passed some fine seats—Sir M. Somerville's, Sir Charles Dillon's, and others. Meath is certainly a noble county, and in many parts resembles the finest spots in England. As our way passed by Killeen Castle, I availed myself of the opportunity, and paid my respects to Lord Fingall. I found his Lordship at home, and busied with the internal improvements of his castle. It is a very noble building, standing on the side of a fine valley, and has a grand and commanding aspect. It is in the best Gothic style. After partaking of some refreshment, we had a long and pleasing conversation. Lord Fingall is totally without the acrimony of party.

"I left this nobleman's castle with regret. He accompanied me through a pleasant and shady walk, leading to a gate which opened on the road. His Lordship has been at great expense in his improvements at Killeen Castle; and he appeared much disheartened at the condition of the Catholics. I could have told him, that Mr. Peel would never yield on this ground.

"On our way to Dublin, nothing further occurred which is worth relating."

SIR WILLIAM KNEIGHTON, BART.

LICENTIATE OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, AND PHYSICIAN TO THE KING.

THE life of a fashionable physician very frequently affords a striking example of the caprice of mankind, who require not only useful merit, but will not dispense with qualities of very little value and importance to the main object which should direct their choice. There are, doubtless, many very eminent medical men at the present day; but if any one should assume it as an indisputable truth, that their station in life is the just measure of their professional talents, he would find himself in very considerable error of judgment. However much many of these gentlemen may possess of science, and of great natural talents or professional acquirements, patronage or mere accident is too frequently the cause of a physician's rise into general notice. A high connexion, a fortunate cure, an accidental acquaintance, or some minor circumstance, first brings him into repute. Beginning his course under such auspices he pushes regularly forwards, and from one distinguished patient passes on to another, till he attains the apex of reputation and practice. His name then reaches the royal ear,—he is called to Court as an object of curiosity only, and, if he chance

to please, is at once adopted into royal favour. His fortune is then made, and he may either continue or abandon his profession, as may best suit his humour.

In making the above observations, we must not be understood as having any purpose to depreciate the valuable qualities and acknowledged skill of Sir William Kneighton. The point of our remark is, that, eminent as Sir William Kneighton now is, and most deserved as is his rank and station, he owes this condition less to his professional talents than to his most gentlemanly manners, and to that happy accident which first introduced him to the Marquis Wellesley, and then to the King. Sir William is one of those men who have only to shew their face at Court, and to make their way. It is very greatly to his credit, that the splendid walls of a Court have seldom seen a more kind and amiable man.

Sir William Kneighton is a native of Devonshire, near Plymouth, and was born about the year 1776. He was, at the accustomed age, as we have heard, articled to a medical practitioner, with whom he served the usual period, five years. During this apprenticeship, or shortly afterwards, whilst he was with an Apothecary and Surgeon, at Plymouth, he was in the habit of attending the lectures of Dr. Geach, the superintendant of the Royal Hospital of Plymouth. This gentleman was a man of the first talents in the West of England, and was as much

distinguished for his literary acquirements as for his medical skill. Mr. Kneighton, we believe, after a short acquaintance with this eminent provincial physician, took up his residence with him in his own house. He thus acquired an opportunity of improving himself by the Doctor's private conversation, as much as by his public lectures, and, doubtless, in this intimate intercourse acquired that degree of practical information, which, upon his subsequent arrival in London, raised him into such respectable practice. One thing, indeed, can never be too strongly recommended to young men aspiring to rise in their profession, whether such profession be the law or physic:—Let them, if within their means and power, become the pupils of some person already eminent and in high repute. By such a preparatory course, they obtain two great objects,—a well grounded professional knowledge, and the opportunity of becoming known to all the friends and connexions, and clients and visitants of their instructor. Perhaps, more than half the men of the present day owe their rise in life to their having possessed this advantage.

Upon leaving Dr. Geach, Mr. Kneighton, doubtless, under the advice and recommendation of the Doctor, came to London, and there entered upon the regular attendance of the hospitals. At this period, many of these institutions had the most eminent men in London for their several Presidents or leading Physicians; and Mr. Kneighton

had every opportunity of advancing his knowledge. Nothing is more creditable to the character of these gentlemen, than the facilities of improvement which they afford to the young medical students, and that pleasing and most useful equality with which all ages and degrees of professional rank here meet together. It lessens the asperity of the most rugged road, and throws flowers on the most barren path of science.

Upon his return to Plymouth, he began his practice under the countenance and patronage of Dr. Geach. He soon became impatient of this narrow field for the exertion of his knowledge and abilities, and appears very early to have adopted the resolution of abandoning the practice of a Surgeon and Apothecary, and of taking his diploma as a Physician. Having now gone through the course of the London hospitals, he had advanced so much nearer to his object, and an occurrence about this time led him to resume it with a more determined ardour. This was the death of his friend and early patron, Dr. Geach.

Mr. Kneighton, in pursuance of this purpose, immediately quitted Plymouth, and proceeded to Edinburgh, where he entered himself a medical student of that University. Sir William, we believe, has since had cause to regret, that he did not select the Universities of Cambridge or Oxford, as the choice of Edinburgh has hitherto prevented him from attaining a rank in which every one wishes to see him,—that of a Fellow of the

College, which his talents and acquirements would so much adorn. In the medical profession, there is a peculiar anomaly. In the law, the army, and the navy, an education exclusively in Scotland has proved no bar to advancement. The courts of law have seen two Lord Chancellors who received their whole education in Scotland, Lords Rosslyn and Erskine. With respect to the navy and the army, the natives of Scotland, of the highest eminence, are too numerous and notorious to require enumeration. In Physic only, no one, whose education has been exclusively in Scotland, can by any chance rise to the head of the college. All the honours in this most respectable institution are confined, by the express letter of their laws, to graduates from the English Universities. If it should be here asked, do we wish it to be otherwise, we unequivocally answer, no; we wish, only, that Oxford and Cambridge were better supplied with the means of medical study and practice. Whilst the Scotch Universities are regulated as they now are,—whilst their standard of classical learning is at its present low ebb in Edinburgh and Glasgow,—whilst Scotch metaphysics and political economy have such an undue preponderance over all exact and profound learning, we trust, most sincerely trust, that the privileges of our English Universities may not be relaxed in one tittle.

Having attained all the knowledge which Edinburgh has to bestow, he returned to London,

where he settled in 1805 or 1806. Having laid so good a foundation under Dr. Geach, at Plymouth, and having added so much by his assiduous attendance upon the hospitals both in London and Edinburgh, he found the immediate advantage of it in his London practice. His medical reputation was greatly assisted by the very superior advantages of his personal address, and very pleasing manners. One patient introduced him to another, till he became known to the Marquis of Wellesley, who immediately adopted him into his patronage.

About the year 1809, the British Government found it necessary to send a Minister to Spain, that he might remove the impediments in that extraordinary people to the course of his brother's arms in Portugal. It is now well known, that a very strong inclination to submit to Joseph Buonaparte was then prevalent amongst the most powerful nobility in Spain, and that the active progress of the British arms under Lord Wellington, was much impeded by the divisions in the Spanish assembly. The Marquis of Wellesley was sent from England to remove these difficulties; and being desired to choose his own attendants, and particularly his physician, he selected Dr. Kneighton. It is well known that this embassy was crowned with a most distinguished success, and, from the known talents of Dr. Kneighton, and particularly from his courtly manners, it is not too much to infer, that in this success he had his share. Indeed, the favour of the

Prince Regent, his present Majesty, which immediately followed his return, may be considered as a proof of the justice of this remark.

Upon his return to England, his practice continued to spread with his reputation, and he soon became one of the physicians in most extensive employ. As might be expected, he became a favourite with the ladies of quality, and amongst others with the Conyngham family. In 1812, he was appointed physician to his present Majesty, at that time Prince Regent, and after a very few months was created a Baronet.

From this period he has been almost daily rising in Court favour, and, upon the death of Colonel MacMahon, was made one of the Private Secretaries of the King, and bearer of the Privy Purse,—a situation which places him immediately and constantly around the royal person. It is now generally known, that, in the formation of more than one ministry, he has been the channel of communication between the King and his ministers and court, and a more worthy and honourable man there certainly is not in his Majesty's court and household.

In one of these negotiations he had to conduct a business of the utmost delicacy, and it is now well known that he brought it to a successful conclusion. During the life of the late Marquis of Londonderry, the conduct of Mr. Canning had been so full of that management and contrivance to increase his own interest, and to undermine the

favour of the Marquis, that he had given general offence not to the Marquis's party only, but to all his former associates in the cabinet. There was a general apprehension of having for a comrade, a man disposed to practices which bordered too nearly upon that craft and cunning not usual in gentlemanly intercourse. A great allowance was indeed to be made for Mr. Canning, he was nearly totally without connexion in a Tory party, and had to support himself, by his own abilities, and his own self-dependent powers, against those who were strong in large hereditary property, and numerous family alliances. The sense of his own weakness against such powerful associates, led him to this course of practice and contrivance, and excited in him a painful and jealous feeling, lest a similar course of confederacy should be actually employed against himself. If the Marquis of Londonderry, so powerful by the favour of his own Prince, and by the known confidence of Foreign Potentates; so successful, moreover, in all his public measures, and so honoured, if not esteemed, for his unquestionable services to the country, and to all Europe, by his most able diplomacy in France and at Vienna; if this nobleman, so happily circumstanced as to all human advantages, could so miserably become a victim of this political jealousy, as to have become insane under its influence; if he could be led to apprehend that all his family and servants were so many hired spies, and that even his conversation with his wife was overheard

and betrayed; is it any just reason of surprise, that Mr. Canning himself was so misled by the same unhappy disposition. So true is the observation of Mr. Burke, that the miseries of greatness are only known to those who can see behind the robes of state; and that the consolations of religion are as much wanting to the rich and great, as to the poor and low.

To return, however, more immediately to our subject. In consequence of the discovery of the practices of Mr. Canning towards the Marquis of Londonderry, at that time Lord Castlereagh, Mr. Canning was compelled to make a kind of honourable retirement; and it was very generally understood, that none of the immediate friends of the Marquis would admit his return into the cabinet. Things remained in this state till the death of the Marquis, when Lord Liverpool secretly endeavoured to procure his return; that was openly opposed, whenever the subject was mentioned, by Lord Eldon, and, we believe, Lords Bathurst, Westmoreland, and Harrowby, and the majority of the council. Lord Liverpool persisted in his efforts to procure Mr. Canning's admission, and did not even give up the attempt, though he knew that a great offence had been given, almost personally, to the king.

We believe, that all these obstacles would never have been surmounted, had not some fortunate circumstances procured Mr. Canning the concurrence of the court party. By this happy, but

most unexpected event, the intimate associates of the palace,—the daily companions of his Majesty, at table and in his drawing-room, became the advocates for Mr. Canning; and the fortunate result was, that, whilst in the act of embarking for India, he was nominated effectually the second minister in the country. What was still more material, he was brought into the immediate presence of his Sovereign, by the daily course of his political duty, and had the opportunity of exercising his most pleasing address. In this respect, he was certainly so superior to the greater part of his comrades, and so nearly equal to the late Marquis of Londonderry himself, that he became a favourite with his Master almost as soon as known by him, and was scarcely second minister before he became designated as the future first.

Throughout all this business, as well as in the more complicated affairs which followed, both upon the advance of Mr. Canning to the premiership, and in the political difficulties which have succeeded his death, Sir William Kneighton has been the gratifying and honourable medium through which his Majesty has been pleased to convey his royal will, and has executed these delicate and embarrassing functions with so much simplicity, directness, and manly candour, as to unite all parties in his praise. We have never heard any thing like a censure for intrigue or sycophancy directed towards the conduct of Sir W. Kneighton. His distinguished manners have given him

a singular aptitude for the representative and confidential servant of his Majesty, and whilst he exercises all fair discretion and all honourable zeal to procure the accomplishment of the king's wishes, to remove obstacles, and to determine the timid and irresolute, he strenuously, we believe, abstains from professions which are not intended, and from that system of courtly dealing, which is better entitled to the praise of dexterity than of honesty.

Sir W. Kneighton is a married man, and is in the enjoyment of much domestic happiness. His wife and family usually live in a happy retirement in a villa on the Harrow Road, near to Shepherd's Bush, where they are usually joined by Sir W. Kneighton daily, when his business permits his absence from London or Windsor. It is a very pleasing circumstance to be enabled to add, that his wife is as much esteemed and beloved as himself; her neighbours speak of her with the greatest regard and respect, as one who is ever ready to exert her liberal fortune and larger influence in doing good, and in conferring kind offices.

SIR HENRY HALFORD, BART.

PHYSICIAN TO THE KING.

TWO things appear to become a Court Physician—the first, a certain introduction in the world by means of the birth, wealth, or good fortune of the object; the second, so polished a degree of manners and personal address as is sufficient to qualify a person to move in such a circle without appearing to be out of his place. Without both of these advantages, superadded to a competent medical skill, no man has ever yet succeeded at Court; and so sure and powerful is their influence, that a very moderate degree of professional knowledge, if accompanied by a good introduction and creditable appearance, will force its way against a very great superiority in medical talents. We are old enough to remember the time, when a certain roughness of manners, and a coarse plain speaking, were the characteristics of the most eminent physicians of the day, and when their unquestionable talents bore them up against these disadvantages. The taste of the town, as well as of the profession, has since changed, and the public can see nothing in the profession of a physician, which should render it necessary to dispense with the manners of a gentleman. It should be added, that none of the above observations are intended to apply any farther to Sir Henry Halford, than

to attribute his well-merited station to his union of the manners of the courtier to the first degree of professional skill. His accidental employment by one noble patient, led to a recommendation to a second—the second to a third, till an increase of reputation occasioned him to be nominated as Physician to the Household.

Dr. Vaughan, which was his original name, that of Halford being since taken in consequence of his succession to the estate of a deceased relative, is descended from a very antient and respectable family in Leicestershire, where the family of the Vaughans have been long seated, and have possessed a very considerable patrimonial estate. On this estate, near Leicester, Dr. Vaughan was born, about the year 1760, when his late Majesty ascended the throne. Sir Henry Halford is thus nearly of the same age with his present Majesty. According to an account which is now before us, Dr. Vaughan received his education at Leicester, where he was well instructed in the classics, together with his two brothers—one of whom is the present Baron Vaughan of the Exchequer; the other, Dr. Vaughan, lately deceased, the Warden of Merton College, Oxford, and a Dean in the church. Perhaps, since the days of Johnson and Garrick, the Free-school of Leicester has seldom sent forth three such excellent scholars. With the late Warden of Merton, the writer of this memoir was well acquainted, and can therefore speak, from actual knowledge, of his most gentle-

manly manners and classical attainments. If the rougher duties of an advocate, as respects the examination and cross-examination of suspected witnesses, have, by the force of habit, given another tone to the external manners of the Baron of the Exchequer, it is only another of those examples so frequent in life, that almost all men insensibly attract something of the circumstances with which they are forced into frequent communion. During the greater portion of his life, Sir Henry Halford has lived and conversed with a Court, and is therefore a courtier. Baron Vaughan and Baron Garrow were, in their several periods, the first amongst lawyers for *badgering* a witness; and it may therefore be said, without offence, that neither of them has gained much on the score of refinement.

Dr. Vaughan entered Oxford as a student, about the year 1780, and, we believe, was a commoner at Merton College, of which his brother was a Fellow. At this time Merton possessed the reputation of being the most gentlemanly college at Oxford, not excepting Christ-church. Its men were said to dress better, and to possess a bettertaste in manners than those of any other college. Perhaps, Dr. Vaughan may owe something of his own distinguished manners to his early residence there. Assuredly, within our own knowledge, the discipline of Merton was very superior to that of the other colleges; and there was that attention to the usages of gentlemen, as to dressing for hall and dinner,

and to a quiet and decorous general deportment, which was not so regularly and scrupulouly exacted at the other colleges.

Sir Henry Halford took his degree of Bachelor of Medicine, at Oxford, about the year 1786, and immediately came to London, that he might walk the hospitals. He did this with the usual regularity observed in that day, and attained that skill and readiness which experience has since so much advanced. About this period, there were three or four students, nearly of the same standing, whose fortune has since been rather extraordinary. One of them, a Scotchman, very soon quitted the medical profession, and, assuming that of a lawyer, became Lord Glenbervie. Another, Dr. Holland, after having become a physician, married Miss Erskine, the daughter of the late Lord Chancellor Erskine, and thinking that this connexion opened a more promising course to him, abandoned physic for the church, and took orders. A third, was Sir James Mackintosh, the late Recorder of Bombay, and now a Member of the Board of Control. We should have added, that the first of these gentlemen, Lord Glenbervie, was some years before the time of Dr. Vaughan. Perhaps, with the single exception of the law, no other profession or calling has wearied out so many of its early students, and led them entirely to abandon the pursuit, and try their fortune in other modes.

In the year 1791, Dr. Vaughan, having taken his Doctor's degree, was elected a Fellow of the

College of Physicians, and immediately commenced his practice in London. He began in the right mode—that of seeking a wife, and a lady of rank and some fortune. He was successful enough to gain the hand of the Hon. Miss St. John, sister to Lord St. John, and by this connexion was immediately introduced into the first circles of rank and fashion. Nothing more was wanting for the full and complete success of a man of Dr. Vaughan's professional merit and gentlemanly address. From one society he passed into another; and as he possessed a sufficient fortune to maintain a suitable establishment, he was very shortly adopted as a fashionable physician. He was younger, and of more pleasing talents, than Dr. Warren, who by this time was going off. He was married, and therefore there was the less impediment to that free intercourse and confidence, which are necessary between a physician and a family.

This marriage, and his consequent reception into fashionable society, led him to Court by a very natural progress, and he was no sooner introduced and known, than he became Physician to the Household. The similar happy progress of the three brothers in their several stations, doubtless aided each other's rise. One of them was at this time a barrister, in leading business. The other, the Principal, or Warden, of one of the first colleges at Oxford, having been elected to that honourable station upon the death of Doctor Scrope Berdmore, the former Warden. In a

word, we do not know in all our experience of life a more fortunate family, and they seem to have owed their fortune to the same second cause —the union of professional talent with a rare degree of personal prudence. The Warden of Merton was tutor of his college upwards of twenty years before he was elected Warden, and in that capacity conducted himself with a steadiness and exemplary regularity, which afterwards procured him his election as Principal and a Deanery in the church.

Throughout the illness of the late King, and particularly during that mental malady which terminated only with his life, the skill and management of Sir Henry Halford were such as to procure him the strongest approbation of his present Majesty. When the late King was first seized with this malady, the authority of Lord Thurlow committed him to the care of Dr. Willis, whose system for patients so affected, was that of exciting terror by coercion and menace. The severity of this discipline made such a strong and lasting impression upon the King's mind, that the remembrance of this treatment remained after his recovery; the very mention of the name of Dr. Willis always excited a strong expression of disgust and apprehension. It is well observed, that the character of this physician, and of his patron, Lord Thurlow, appears to have been cast in the same stern mould. In the last attack of the late King, the Queen insisted that a new mode should be

tried, and immediately removed Dr. Willis from his Majesty's person. Sir Henry Halford was appointed to take the lead in the arrangements, and conducted himself with so much delicacy and good sense, as to gain the esteem of the Royal family and household. As a mark of his present Majesty's favour, he was appointed (during the late King's life) one of his own physicians in ordinary.

There was something so peculiar in the case of George the Third, as to baffle the skill and sagacity of the most experienced physicians. For a long time, their opinions, according to the delicacy of the case, inclined to a favourable result, and it was generally supposed that the king would recover. On the one side were the sound constitution of the royal sufferer, and the former cure of the complaint; on the other were the age of the patient, and his peculiar feelings and situation as a sovereign, unaccustomed to control, and averting with a peculiar abhorrence from any thing like menace. Whilst it was possible to entertain any hopes, it was the duty of his medical attendants to consider the many powerful interests connected with the health of the sovereign. Sir Henry Halford conducted his arrangements with a due regard to all these circumstances; and the examination of the physicians turned out greatly to his honour. The political arrangements which followed upon the protracted continuance of the malady, have discovered the advantage and

sound prudence of this measured reserve; indeed, the expediency of it was so obvious, that even the plain dealing and direct sincerity of Dr. Baillie conceded to this courtly system.

The continuance of a Tory ministry in power from that time to the present, may be imputed indeed to this circumspect conduct of the physicians, which did not even till the close of his existence preclude the hope that the king might return to the efficient discharge of his duties. Sir H. Halford thus shewed himself equally adroit as a courtier, and eminent as a physician, and was immediately adopted into that high degree of patronage at court in which he now stands. It was no inconsiderable proof of this favour, that when his present Majesty was required by his filial duty to make a kind of examination of St. George's Chapel, Windsor, that he might select a proper place for the deposit of his father, and when it was part of this melancholy duty to examine the state of the coffins of his royal predecessors, he chose Sir Henry Halford to accompany him.

Upon this examination, as the decayed condition of the very ancient coffins enabled Sir Henry to inspect the remains contained within them; he made some very interesting discoveries, and particularly as regarded the habits worn by our earlier kings. Sir Henry published a pamphlet on this occasion, which is his only published work, and excited much and well merited attention. As Sir Henry is not only a most able physi-

cian, but is a scholar of the first degree of eminence, it is a subject of just regret that he has not in this respect followed the example of Sir Astley Cooper, and others, who by these means have not only benefited themselves, but have, as it were, bequeathed their experience to posterity. Perhaps one of the most amusing as well as valuable books in the early stage of printing, is the Acts and Biography of learned Physicians by one of themselves. A single observation will place the importance of these works of eminent physicians in a strong point of view: What, in fact, would have been the present state of medical science and how different from what it actually is, had the learned doctors of the last century suffered their knowledge to die with them?

We should not, indeed, omit to mention, that Sir Henry has published his Herveian oration, delivered, according to custom, before the College of Physicians. We have never seen it, but if we may speak from the materials before us, it is written with more taste, and in a better latin style, than usually characterizes such essays. In his prescriptions, he is said to display the same good taste and remembrance of classic models. The late Doctor Reynolds, as is well known, was justly celebrated for the pure latinity even of his prescriptions, and it is said, that Sir Henry is not inferior to him. It may be still within the remembrance of many of our readers, that Sir George Baker excelled not only all his brother physicians,

but nearly all the other learned men of his day in his elegant accomplishment.

Sir Henry Halford, as we have above stated, is a married man, and has a family of children. He is still in the enjoyment of health, and though rather advanced in life, continues in the active pursuit and exercise of his profession. His fortune, which is considerable, has been acquired in a way which leaves him in the possession of the good-will of his brethren, no less than of the public.

LORD TENTERDEN,

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE KING'S BENCH.

IN the course of these memoirs of living Statesmen and Public Characters, we have more than once had occasion to observe, that almost all of them have owed their present eminent name and office to their own industry, as the main secondary cause; all of them having been advanced for some useful quality or talent, and having been raised to their high office in the public service, because possessing the knowledge and abilities which the public service requires. Hence, almost all of them have risen, not only from a private station, but, in most cases, from a fortune as humble as their condition of birth.

In our own time, we have seen three Chief Justices, and four Lord Chancellors; and, we believe, that Lord Rosslyn was the only one of them, who, at the age of thirty, had one hundred pounds their own. Lord Kenyon was, indeed, the son of a gentleman, but of a fortune so small, that his eldest son, the future Chief Justice, was first articled to an attorney, and only thought of becoming a barrister when his mature abilities and knowledge were as much felt by himself, as they had become known and highly reputed in the city of Chester and its neighbourhood. Lord Ellenborough was likewise well-born as respects his father; but his grandfather was one of those Cumberland clergymen, who, with simple manners and masculine understanding, are nursed and disciplined in the school of frugality, who raise themselves from the yeomanry, and give birth not unfrequently to future Bishops and Chancellors. Of Lord Lyndhurst we have before spoken. Our present subject is Lord Tenterden, a man whose origin was more humble than that of any of his predecessors, and who is still indebted for his present rank to his own industry.

Charles Abbott, Lord Tenterden, is the son of an honest and respectable tradesman at Canterbury, where he was born about the year 1760. The business, or rather occupation of his father, rendered him a daily attendant every morning upon the resident Prebends and Canons of the Cathedral, to whom his very decent mien and de-

portment, and his very honest and respectable character, so strongly recommended him, as to render him a general favourite. One of the young companions (a schoolfellow) of the present Chief Justice, upon whose report we are writing this part of our memoir, has described the father to us as a tall, erect, primitive looking man, with a large club-pigtail behind him, and the instruments of his business under his arm, attended frequently by his son, the present Chief Justice, a youth, as decent, grave, and primitive looking as his father himself. "I have frequently seen them, father and son," says our friendly informant, "in the course of their morning attendance on the Canons; nothing could be more unassuming and respectable than both of them, and it was this character which rendered young Abbott such a favourite. The Prebends and Canons soon began to take notice of them, and, I believe, it was by their means that he was enabled to look to a better condition of life."

Under these auspices, young Abbott, at the proper age, became a scholar at the free school at Canterbury, which is open, we believe, as a matter of right, to the sons of all the burgesses. Our friendly informant was here the schoolfellow of the Lord Chief Justice, and we shall again repeat his words. "I remember him at school well,—he was the same kind of boy I have before mentioned; grave, silent, and demure; always studious, and well behaved; reading his book instead

of accompanying us to play, and recommending himself to all who saw and knew him by his quiet and decent demeanour. I think his first rise in life was owing to a boy of the name of Thurlow, an illegitimate son of the Lord Chancellor, who was at Canterbury free school with us. Abbott and this boy were well acquainted, and when Thurlow went home for the holidays, he took young Abbott with him. Abbott thus became acquainted with Lord Thurlow, and was a kind of helping tutor to young Thurlow; and I have always heard, and I am persuaded, that it was by his Lordship's aid that he was afterwards sent to college. The clergy of Canterbury always took great notice of him, as they knew and respected his father."

We do not know whether some exhibitions at Oxford are not attached to the free school at Canterbury; we presume that one or two scholarships of £12 or £16 a-year (the usual rate of these scholarships) are so, and that young Abbott obtained one of these upon leaving the school for the University. But we presume that he must have been assisted by other means, before he would have ventured on such an expensive step. We have, therefore, little doubt, but that Lord Thurlow, and perhaps the clergy of Canterbury, contributed their liberal patronage, and that young Abbott was thus enabled to proceed to Oxford. By whatever means it may have been, it was highly honourable to his patrons. It is incredible, indeed, how many of these noble acts are almost daily rendered

by one or other of our nobility and gentry; and how large a proportion of them by those who can least afford such a liberal bounty, by the clergy of the Established Church.

Mr. Abbott was entered a member of Corpus Christi College in the year 1780 or 1781, about six years after Lord Eldon, and his brother, Lord Stowell, had become members of University College; the latter of these noblemen being the tutor of his college whilst Mr. Abbott was at Oxford. Thus, at the same period, there were three men at the University, (one of them a scholar, holding an exhibition not exceeding sixteen pounds per annum, the two others holding fellowships not exceeding one hundred and twenty pounds annually), who were destined to become the three heads of the law—the one as Lord Chancellor, the second as Lord Chief Justice, and the third as Judge of the Admiralty and Prerogative Courts. Perhaps, there were not at the time three more simple, humble, modest looking men within the compass of the University, and certainly not three men, from whose air and deportment any one would less have augured such a splendid futurity.

In the University of Oxford, there were, at that period, two prizes of twenty pounds each, given annually, for the best compositions in Latin verse and English prose; there has since been added a third, by Lord Grenville, for Latin prose. The first of these prizes, that for the best composition in Latin verse, upon a subject chosen by the Uni-

versity, is confined to those members who are not of more than four years standing.

In the year 1784, the subject chosen was *Globus Ærostaticus*, the Air Balloon, which Lunardi, the inventor, had about that time introduced into England. This prize was gained by Mr. Abbott, his Latin verses upon that subject being adjudged to be the best. In the year 1786, the thesis for composition in English prose, was "The Use and Abuse of Satyr," and this prize was likewise gained by Mr. Abbott. Mr. Abbott thus established his character at the University for diligence and scholarship, and thus at once justified the liberal patronage of his friends, and gained a reputation which was eventually of the greatest service to him in future life. When, after an interval of thirty years, Lord Eldon, as Chancellor, had to select a proper man to fill a judicial vacancy, he remembered Mr. Abbott, and what reputation he had acquired at Oxford. Perhaps, the Chancellor valued this kind of fame so much more highly, as he himself had been a successful combatant in the same lists. In the year 1771, fifteen years before Mr. Abbott gained his prize for the best composition in English, on the Use and Abuse of Satyr, Lord Eldon himself had gained the same prize, for an English prose composition on the "Advantages and Disadvantages of Foreign Travel."

Like Lord Eldon and Lord Stowel, Mr. Abbott was very soon elected to a fellowship in his college,

and, like the latter of these noblemen, he became the tutor, a situation of much more emolument than a mere fellowship, though always held by one of the fellows. Whilst in this office, one of the sons of Sir Francis Buller, the eminent judge, fell under his tuition, and the father became so much pleased with the talents of Mr. Abbott, that he immediately adopted him into his patronage, and recommended him to quit his collegiate life and to take his chance at the bar. Mr. Abbott complied with the recommendation, giving up his tutorship, but keeping his fellowship. He came up to town, entered himself as a student of law, and commenced the study of Reports and the practice of special pleading.

To those who remember the character of the late Sir Francis Buller, as a judge, and a man, it is scarcely necessary to observe, that his eminent learning and abilities as a lawyer, were not adequately supported by the gravity and morality of his private life. In plain words, his private character was so little becoming his station as a judge, that in despite of his great talents, and incomparable knowledge in Nisi Prius law, it became impossible to advance him. Sir Francis knew this obstacle, and did not much resent it.

From Sir Francis Buller to the present day, there has been a regular succession of special pleaders,—Mr. Justice Grose succeeded Sir Francis, when he was advanced to the Bench, and has been succeeded by Tidd, Humphereys, Chitty, and

others, who, all considering Buller as their master, have faithfully and (perhaps rather mischievously) tenaciously adhered to a system of fastidious subtlety and vexatious nicety in pleading and drawing, which is but little consistent with the good sense of modern practice. We hope to see the time, when all this incumbering jargon of the ancient law will be entirely banished from the profession, and, we believe, there is a measure now in progress for effecting this object. In this system Buller had himself been educated, and having become a master, he delighted in keeping up its consequence, and, in despite of a more enlightened practice, maintained its existence. By the influence of his example and recommendation, Mr. Abbott followed in great part the same line of study, and became an adept in special pleading. When Mr. Abbott lived in his small and cheap rented chambers, about twenty years since, in Mitre Court, we remember seeing a declaration of this nature drawn by him, which, though not of a very special nature, was nearly a foot in thickness. In modern practice, the same declaration by a moderate pleader might with ease have been comprehended in three sheets of paper.

We mention this circumstance, as it characterizes the genius of Mr. Abbott. He has nothing in his character of the improver; nothing which may justify the expectation, that he will do any thing to amend the present defective process of the law. He is tenaciously attached to the old

system; and, with all his love of justice, does not scruple to maintain the forms of pleading at the expense of the manifest equity of the case. This tenacity for old forms, he considers as a love of order and method, and demands what kind of declarations we should have on the files of the court, if such irregularities should either be passed over, or be amended only when they are detected. This might, certainly, be a good objection, where the inaccuracy or looseness of description were such as to affect the identity of parties or things; but it is wholly without weight when applied to errors or omissions entirely immaterial. The truth is, that Lord Tenterden is rather a safe and sufficient Judge, than an able and comprehensive mind; and that he excels rather in that knowledge which is acquired by diligence, than in those quick perceptions and acute intelligence which belong only to great parts.

Whilst at the bar, Mr. Abbott wrote his celebrated work upon Shipping, which he dedicated to Lord Eldon, at that time Lord Chancellor. The work is very strongly marked with that common sense and diligent reading which have always characterized the author. The method is original, and the distribution of the subject not unworthy of Blackstone. The style is singularly plain and unaffected, and therefore good. Upon the whole, it is the best law book of Mr. Abbott's time, and very deservedly procured him the patronage both of the Chancellor and Lord Ellenborough. The

consequence was, that both of these heads of the law adopted him into their patronage. Lord Ellenborough endeavoured, but in vain, to push him into greater business; Mr. Abbott was better estimated by the bar than by the attorneys, and never attained any considerable degree of practice. Lord Eldon resolved to assist him more effectually, and probably bore his name in mind, that he might promote him as occasion served.

This opportunity at length arose. In the year 1816, Mr. Justice Heath died, and a vacancy occurred in the Common Pleas. It was immediately filled up with the name of Mr. Abbott. Upon taking his place, he was almost unknown in the court, and his elevation excited a very general surprise. It was thought, that the bar of the Common Pleas might have afforded a lawyer more adequate to the situation, and that the profession in that court was not well treated in having a King's Bench lawyer, and one of such moderate practice, advanced over the heads of the leaders in that court. But the truth is, that Mr. Abbott's knowledge was much, and very unjustly, under-rated by these complainants. As a lawyer, there were very few in the Court of Common Pleas who could have sustained any comparison with him; and as a scholar, he was superior to most of them. He had probably read a larger portion of law than almost any man of his day; and he had carried his researches where few of them had deemed it necessary to extend their

labours—into the foreign jurists and lawyers. Mr. Abbott, therefore, so far as legal knowledge was concerned, had well earned his promotion; and he was not the first lawyer whose estimation with attorneys and the public, was not correspondent with his actual merit.

In his performance of the duties of this office, Mr. Justice Abbott displayed that degree of useful knowledge for which the Lord Chancellor had given him credit, and he had probably the opportunity of shewing his gratitude in the private affairs of the Chancellor. He certainly gave so much satisfaction to this head of the law, that when the death of Sir Simon Le Blanc followed that of Mr. Justice Heath, and opened a place in the Court of King's Bench, the Chancellor again advanced Mr. Justice Abbott. This advancement was attended with two advantages to Mr. Abbott; it was not only a promotion from an inferior to a higher court, but a removal to a tribunal more congenial with his habits and manners. The rough and boisterous tone of the leading serjeants in the Common Pleas was but ill suited to the grave and decorous deportment of Mr. Abbott. Mr. Abbott, perhaps, is not himself much distinguished for the minor graces and courtesies of the gentleman, but he never failed in the point of civility, and has always been too cautious not to observe the gravity and composure belonging to the judicial character. The Court of Common Pleas at that time, as always, was too frequently the scene

of contention not altogether consistent with the due character and dignity of a Court of Justice.

In the Court of King's Bench, Sir Charles Abbott had a still better opportunity for displaying his talents of business, his competency, his prudence, and his aversion to all innovation upon the received practice of the court and its officers. The frequent indisposition of Lord Ellenborough afforded him these occasions, and his conduct gave the fullest satisfaction to the Chancellor. Accordingly, the death of Lord Ellenborough no sooner afforded a third opportunity for the further advancement of Sir Charles Abbott, than he was made Chief Justice of the King's Bench. Thus, in a space of time not much exceeding four years, a man of good habits of business and diligent reading, but in no respect of a capacity more than ordinary, ascended from the most moderate practice at the bar, to the eminent office and dignity of Chief Justice of England, and thus occupied a seat, which, from the beginning of the last century to the present, had been successively filled by some of the ablest men and strongest minds in the English annals. Let it be added, however, that if Lord Tenterden will not support a comparison with such men as Holt, Murray, Kenyon, and Ellenborough, he has always proved himself competent to the business of his office, and has discharged its duties prudently and discreetly.

In one respect only, we feel it incumbent upon ourselves to say, that we deem it to have fallen very short, not only of the decided ability, but of

the firmness and fortitude, which a great occasion required. The acquittal of Hone was decidedly owing to the want of due firmness on the part of the judge by whom he was first tried; and this judge was Lord Tenterden. The jury appeared to catch the cold and moderate tone of his Lordship, and concluded that those passages could not be very libellous, or, if libellous, could not be very mischievous, which appeared to excite nothing like feeling upon the part of the judge. Lord Ellenborough was old, infirm, and, let the truth be spoken, the martyr of his habitual indulgence in the rich viands of the table, but he felt as became a Christian judge, when these atrocious blasphemies were read to him. Not so was it with Sir Charles Abbott. In the opinion of every one present, and of all who have since read the trial, he appeared to have had no sympathy upon the occasion; he looked and spoke as if he was trying a case of slander between two scolding women; his air and manner seemed to rebuke all those who felt with any ardour for the great interests assailed. Either his actual feelings were thus moderate, or he deemed it necessary to appear so. If the former, we hesitate not to say, that he was totally unfit to become the first judge in a Christian tribunal. If the latter, we think that the assumed moderation was unwise and impolitic, and has added nothing to his reputation. In times of audacious blasphemy and daring infidelity, it is surely the duty of the friends of religion and the church to shew

themselves,—to come fearlessly forwards,—and not, with a cowardly selfishness, and a mean and low-minded cunning, to seek the praise of temper and moderation at the expense of their positive duties. We will not, indeed, apply these strong terms to Lord Tenterden; but it is our own candid opinion, that he was very much wanting in the firmness and fortitude that the occasion required,—and that he would have acted more wisely, and have acquired a larger portion of esteem amongst those whose esteem is best worth possessing, if he had acted less timidly and indecisively.

We have before had occasion to mention, that Lord Thurlow was Mr. Abbott's first patron, and Lord Eldon his second. In fact, when Lord Tenterden, a few years only before he was made a judge, published his book on Shipping, he prefixed a dedication, in which he not only acknowledges that the permission to dedicate was given by Lord Eldon, but states that his Lordship had himself suggested the work, and that he had undertaken it by his advice. It is, indeed, not a solitary instance of the late Lord Chancellor's having encouraged the industry of the younger men at the bar, and afterwards deemed himself bound to reward it. Mr. Eden, now a Master in Chancery, drew up his excellent treatise on the Bankrupt Laws under the advice, and with the occasional aid and supervision of the same learned law Lord, and when a Mastership became vacant, he was rewarded by the appointment. We have heard that two Masterships were at this time vacant, and that the Chan-

cellor had made an almost absolute promise of the other of them, when he received a request from the Duke of York, that he would bestow it on Sir Giffin Wilson. The Chancellor could not refuse, and Sir Giffin had it.

Two qualities have distinguished Lord Tenterden as a judge,—first, that no one before him has contrived to get through the business with so much dispatch, without falling under the censure of indecent haste or uncourteous abruptness. The peculiar forte of the leading counsel in the court, the present Attorney-General, has assisted him in this object. Sir James Scarlett is almost the author and originator of the present method of familiarly talking out a cause,—putting the point at once, arguing it colloquially with the bench, and, when he sees that he cannot succeed, dexterously declining a useless contest. The Judges of the King's Bench, and none more than the Chief Justice, have endeavoured to extend this practice. They have already put an end to the former wearisome pedantic system of long speeches and set arguments, and introduced a more business-like mode of coming to the point in issue at once, and, if there be an argument between the counsel, confining it within that limit. Nothing is now more common than to hear the Chief Justice interrupt a prosing or flourishing counsel by politely informing him that he need not press the point upon which he is exhibiting,—that the Court are satisfied upon that part of the subject, but will hear

him with pleasure upon some other. It may easily be imagined, that a practice of this kind has at once a tendency to save the time of the court, and to make good lawyers. It is one thing to make a flourish, and totally another to come to the point in a close argument.

Another very laudable trait in the character of Lord Tenterden as a Judge, is, that in his late decisions, and in his mode of receiving evidence, he has followed the noble example of the late Lord Kenyon, who suffered no opportunity to escape him for maintaining the cause of truth and advancing the interests of religion and morality. In a cause now before us, Lord Tenterden ordered the plaintiff to be nonsuited, because it appeared that his claim was mixed up with gross falsehood. "I would have it known," said his Lordship, "that plaintiffs cannot recover in this Court, who, in the course of their contract, have been guilty of a *lie*. This is an action for medicines supplied by a chymist; and it appears in evidence, that, for the sake of greater respectability, he was in the habit of adding an M. D. to his name, and suffering himself to be called so, and reputed so. He must be nonsuited."

We believe, almost every day's practice affords similar examples, in which the Lord Chief Justice has endeavoured to act upon the received maxim of law, that those who come into the courts, must come with pure hands; and that as law is made for the maintenance of the public good, and to up-

hold and advance the interests of morality, so nothing can be legal, which is contrary to a manifest general good, and would only promote immorality and vice. It may not be within the province of a court of law, to try or punish acts for their immoral qualities, but it must always be the duty of a Christian tribunal to administer law, so as to uphold morality.

It is another pleasing feature in the character of Lord Tenterden, that he is as far removed from the sordid habits of some officers in the law, now sitting not far below him, as from the indiscreet and ostentatious profusion of other contemporaries. It is said, that he expends liberally, and at the same time prudently, the large income of his office; and that, as he has a family to found, he will accomplish this object without exceeding the just bounds of fair and honourable accumulation. He will not starve his charity to make his family, nor forget that it is the duty of a Christian to give, as well as of a father to provide for his children, suitably to the state of life in which Providence has placed them. We view this part of his character with the greatest satisfaction. We have heard a traditionary anecdote of one of our greatest judges in the last century:—His family being assembled around him upon his death-bed, he thus addressed them:—"I do not leave you much; but it was honourably gotten, and it will stick by you."

In Parliament, Lord Tenterden has not as yet had any just occasion to exert himself, and, there-

fore, we do not know what may be his talents as a statesman and legislator. His education has been regular and good, and, from his early compositions, we should think that his reading had not been confined to law, and that he was a general scholar. In his book on Merchant Shipping, his style, though exceedingly plain and simple, is neat, perspicuous, and exact—precisely expressing what he intends to express, and never offending against good taste—never going beyond the subject, and never falling short of it. His mode of division shews that he is well read in logic, or at least in that practical part of it, method, which alone comes into use in the business of life. He appears always to understand himself, and, therefore, argues forcibly, because following the process of the reasoning in his own mind. These are no ordinary qualities, and they sufficiently establish, that Lord Tenterden is a man of no common abilities. He shews the same clear judgment, and good apprehension in his mode of trying a cause. If not quick in his perceptions, he is almost always just in his judgments.

When his Majesty was pleased to advance him to the peerage, he took the title of Tenterden, because it was the abode, we presume, of some one of his ancestors on the father's or mother's side. We have never heard that he has any property in that town or vicinity, though he will doubtless hereafter choose it as the seat of his family. His chief place of residence is in his town house, in Russel

Square, where he lives in that sufficient style which does honour to his taste and understanding, whilst it is in no degree inconsistent with his rank. He knows that the just and true measure of a man's expenditure in any station, is not what is actually done by men of the world in the same station, but what ought to be done by them; what the true decorum of rank, in a monarchical form of government, requires on the one hand, and what the relative duties of family, friends, and charity, render incumbent upon the other. To judge by what we see and hear, Lord Tenterden appears to adopt this standard in his domestic life.

Lord Tenterden is about 64 or 65 years of age, but has lived a life of so much hard labour, and of such assiduous and unbroken application, that his strength is evidently sinking, and his health is not such as to allow him to continue for many years longer in his present office. At the time we are writing, there is a general expectation that he will be called to some easier post, such as Deputy Speaker in the Lords, an office first borne by Lord Gifford. The only difficulty is understood to be, that Lord Tenterden's situation, as the founder of a family, requires a larger salary than has been attached to this office. If this difficulty could be overcome, we believe Lord Tenterden would immediately retire from the King's Bench.

His Lordship has a family of several children. His eldest son is a barrister, and holds an office of good income under his father, and attached to his Court.

SIR JAMES MACGREGOR.

THIS is one of those distinguished public characters who owe their reputation and opulence to their industrious and skilful pursuit of an honourable profession. His services under the Duke of Wellington have raised him to the honour of Director General, and principal Medical Officer of the British army. In the course of this arduous service, his conduct has been such as has justly entitled him to the esteem of his illustrious commander, and to the gratitude of the King and country.

Sir James Macgregor, as his name so well intimates, is a Scotchman by family and birth. His father was a respectable merchant at Aberdeen, who sent him for education to the Marischal College in that town. Here he enjoyed the enviable advantage of being a pupil of Dr. Beattie, and took his degree of Bachelor of Arts.

From Aberdeen he passed to Edinburgh, and entered upon the accustomed medical course. In the usual period, he attained all the knowledge which Edinburgh has to bestow, and thence proceeded to London, where he entered himself as a student at the hospitals, and diligently attended the lectures. In this manner he acquired that degree of solid and exact knowledge, which, at a later period, has carried him to eminence and well merited distinction.

These preparatory studies brought him to the year 1793, when the revolutionary war broke out, and diffused a military spirit through all classes of society. Young Macgregor caught the spreading fire, and, having solicited a military commission, was appointed Surgeon of the 88th regiment of foot. His regiment was immediately put upon active service, and he accompanied it. It is highly to the credit of his zeal and talents, that he united the gratification of a strong literary taste to the ordinary routine of his daily business. He wrote an excellent treatise on the important subject of general and regimental hospitals. At the same early period, he maintained a constant correspondence with Professor Duncan of Edinburgh; in the course of which he detailed the particulars of many cases falling within his own personal knowledge and practice.

In the year 1800, his regiment was stationed in India. An expedition was preparing for the conquest of Batavia and Manilla, the command of which was to have been given to Colonel Wellesley, now Duke of Wellington. Mr. Macgregor was appointed chief of the medical staff, and the expedition had commenced its march, and reached Ceylon, when the invasion of Egypt by Buonaparte, and the apprehended danger of India, if he should succeed in establishing the French in that region, induced the King and the East India Directors to resolve upon an expedition to that country. The Batavian expedition was accordingly recall-

ed, the command of it transferred to Sir David Baird; and, upon its arrival, directed to Egypt. Mr. Macgregor accompanied the army; and, after a long service in Egypt, published an excellent treatise upon the peculiar diseases of that country. His account of his mode of treating the plague, the ophthalmia, and the eruptive disease of the skin peculiar to hot climates, is such as to confer great honour upon his skill and talents, and doubtless promoted his professional rise.

Upon the happy conclusion of this service, Mr. Macgregor returned to India, following the route of the desert of Suez and the Red Sea. Upon his arrival, he was immediately appointed Chief of the Quarantine Board, established at Butcher's Island. In a short time afterwards, in 1803, he was appointed Inspector of Hospitals, and returned to England with merited reputation; and, it is to be presumed, (from the liberal fees in India,) with opulence honourably acquired.

Upon reaching England, he found another call for his services. Marshal Beresford was in the act of organizing and disciplining the Portuguese army, and immediately solicited the Government to attach Dr. Macgregor to the medical establishment. But another service was to be his destiny. A Director General was required for the Walcheren expedition, and as no one more suitable presented himself to the attention of the Government, Dr. Macgregor was appointed, and sent upon that dangerous and melancholy service.

It is unnecessary to add, that the unhealthy state of the season, and the flat marshy country, soon infected the whole army with the Walcheren fever. The flower of the British troops fell a victim to this ill-judged and ill-contrived expedition. In the despatches of the Commander-in-chief, a most honourable mention is made of the merits of Sir J. Macgregor, and of the skill and activity with which he administered to the diseases of the sufferers. Sir James, indeed, applied himself at once to the root of the evil; he advised that the whole number of sick should be instantly reconveyed to their native land; and he drew up such an account of the endemic nature of the disease, and of the fatality of the corrupted marshes of Walcheren, as determined the Government to withdraw the whole army from that infected region. The ability and promptness with which Sir James executed this service, were such as to entitle him to the lasting gratitude of his country. The nature of the expedition, and the causes of its unexpected failure, were afterwards a subject of inquiry before the House of Commons; in the course of which Sir James was called to the bar of the House and examined. His answers were so direct, so manly, and conscientious, with such a simple regard to truth, and such a total absence of any concession to the spirit and feelings of the parties on either side, as greatly to raise his character in the public estimation, and to afford satisfaction to every one.

During the first campaigns in Spain and Portugal, Dr. Frank was the chief of the medical department in the army under the Duke of Wellington, but he retired in the year 1811. Sir James succeeded him, and undertook this most arduous and difficult of all services. It required as much courage as skill, and as much enduring patience as unbroken fortitude, to direct a service of this nature, in which a whole army was exposed to the hardship of perpetual duty by night and day, whilst a general battle, every now and then, augmented the number of the wounded, the sick, and the dying, beyond all means of providing for them. The conduct of Sir James gave most general satisfaction, and so strongly was the Duke impressed with the merit of such unwearied activity, that the chief of the medical department was publicly *gazetted*, as having rendered the most distinguished service to the army and country. It has been well observed by a previous medical biographer, to whom we are much indebted in this article, that this was the first occasion, in which the official despatches have ever noticed the services of the medical department; and that this honourable exception to the ordinary course is equally creditable to the candour and honest feelings of the Duke of Wellington, as to Sir James and his surgical assistants. This eminent service, and the distinguished mention of it in the Gazette, was upon the occasion of the siege and capture of Badajoz, which, as will be well remembered

by military men; was taken by storm, and with a consequent great loss in killed and wounded.

It was not long before another occasion for a like honourable mention occurred. The storming of Badajoz was soon followed by the glorious battle of Salamanca, when Sir James again distinguished himself by his unwearied attention to the wounded, and was again rewarded by the official testimonials of his illustrious Commander-in-chief. Having enumerated the services of the other officers of his army upon that memorable occasion, his Grace concluded his despatch by stating, that under the attention and ability of Dr. Macgregor, and of the other medical officers in his department, not only his own wounded, but those of the enemy left in his hands, were well taken care of.

Every successive battle added to the services of Sir James, and to the public approbation of the Duke. Having once commenced this excellent practice of not *omitting* the mention of the medical department in his despatches, and having thus broken the barbarous usage of other times, to regard the medical officers as inferior in rank to the others, his Grace continued it throughout his campaigns. By these means he at once raised the character of the medical men under his command, and, by the zeal which he inspired in them, rendered their services much more effectual. Men, in all professions, will seldom rise above the standard at which they are reputed. If you ex-

pect to be served with the delicacy and honour of gentlemen, you must call these qualities forth, by teaching the medical officers that you regard them as gentlemen, and expect from them all the habits and qualities of such.

At the end of this series of successful campaigns, Sir James returned to England with the Duke of Wellington and his army, and was immediately presented to the King, at that time Prince Regent. His Royal Highness honoured him by conferring a pension and knighthood; and within a very short period a suitable opportunity occurring, he was made President of the Medical Board, to which, we believe, is attached a very considerable remuneration. The favour of the Duke of Wellington has thus been followed by that of his Majesty, and so well established is Sir James in the royal graces, that we believe his elevation would go yet higher, if it were agreeable to the course of etiquette, to confer higher honours upon the Director of this department.

We have already taken occasion to mention that Sir James is a very distinguished writer, and owes no inconsiderable portion of his success in life to the readiness and ability of his pen. In his first campaigns, he observed much; and in a series of very able essays, he published the details of his practice in hot climates. The Walcheren expedition opened a new sphere for his experience, and he doubtless arranged and digested his knowledge

with his usual ability. His ablest production is his Treatise upon the Diseases of Egypt,—his next in ability and importance was his letter to the commissioners of military inquiry. In this publication he threw out some useful hints, which were immediately adopted by the commissioners. It is incredible how many abuses will insensibly creep into the system, if not under constant supervision, and how slowly and unwillingly any reform is made. Every one is satisfied with the performance of what he deems his own immediate duty, and, under the apprehension of being considered an impertinent meddler or interloper in the concerns of others, suffers the routine of an office, corrupt and mischievous as it may chance to be, to proceed as it has always proceeded. At length, the direction of affairs happily falls into the hands of a man more generous and public spirited than the ordinary class; and with a brave neglect of personal odium, and all other intervening obstacles, he applies himself to the duty of reforming abuses. In nine cases out of ten, he succeeds in the effort, but falls a victim to his success in the persecution which he has raised around him. The public are not aware how large is their debt to such men, and how careful it becomes them to be to pay it with liberality.

About this time, every kind of medical honor and distinction was showered upon the head of Sir James. In addition to his other appointments, he is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians

of Edinburgh, a Licentiate of the Royal College in London, a Member of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, of the Medical Society of Montpellier, and Vice President of the Medical and Surgical Society in London.

In the interval of one of the Spanish campaigns in 1810, Sir James married Miss Grant, a lady of a most respectable family at Forres, in Scotland, and a relation of Sir James.

It is greatly to the honour of Sir James, that he is no less beloved than respected by all the officers of the army with whom he has served, and that they all retain a very strong recollection of the zeal and assiduity with which he attended their wounded comrades in the field of battle. In the Medical Biography, to which we are so much indebted, (*A Picture of the present state of the College of Physicians in London, with Biographical Memoirs of the celebrated Physicians. London*, 1817.—*Sherwood*) it is related, that a service of plate of the value of one THOUSAND guineas was presented to Sir James by the Physicians, Surgeons, Apothecaries, and Purveyors, who had served along with him in his several campaigns in Portugal, Spain, Egypt, and Holland. The principal vase bears an inscription equally creditable to the givers and the receiver of the gift. It is very pleasing to see feelings like these in such a class of public officers. There are services which cannot be adequately rewarded by money, because they arise from motives and principles

with which money has nothing in common. Sir James Macgregor's, we believe, to have been of this nature. The army under his medical superintendence had a good right to expect skill, care, and assiduous attention, but they had no right to expect the feelings of a friend, a brother, or a parent, and the extraordinary zeal and humanity which we believe characterized the professional life of Sir James.

Sir James is still at that period of life when persons of active habits and sound constitution have much to enjoy; and with so many friends, and such a well earned reputation and opulence, we trust that he does enjoy that portion of happiness which human life admits. We hope also, that the feelings of the Christian add a zest to his happy circumstances in rank and fortune. With this union of religion, honest reputation, and a competent income, we know nothing that can be wanting to constitute a happy life.

Sir James's success affords another instance, that in England every man of talent may attain distinction and opulence by a course of assiduous study, and rise to the head of his profession by promptitude in availing himself of those circumstances of becoming known, which in the medical and legal professions occur to every one.

EARL DUDLEY AND WARD.

IT is a just remark of one of our historians, that all our noble families, without a single exception, have become absolutely extinct, if we look to the male line only; and have been continued solely by the grace and favour of our kings, who, upon the failure of the male line, have transferred the inheritance of the honours to those who have married the daughters. Before the reign of George the Third, there was only one Marquis, (the Marquis of Winchester), four Viscounts, twenty Barons, and about thirty Earls, of all our ancient nobility, notwithstanding our successive sovereigns had continued their several lines by renewing the titles that had become extinct, in conferring them on those who had made alliances with the female side. We do not know, indeed, a noble family of the present age, the titled honours of which have not been derived by means of the intermarriage of other families with the ancient house whose name they now bear.

This is peculiarly the case with the nobleman who is the subject of this biographical sketch. The present Earl Dudley is the lineal descendant from one of a class of men to whom we owe the proudest names in our modern peerage. His ancestor was a citizen of London, and owed his elevation to his industrious acquisition of wealth, and to the honourable character which he acquired by the liberal use of it.

In the reign of Charles the First, the goldsmith

of the court, was a Mr. Robert Ward, a man of good family, as private gentlemen in Suffolk. In the course of his business he acquired a very handsome fortune, and was doubtless enabled to afford convenient assistance to the noblemen and courtiers of the day. In this manner he probably became acquainted with the Lord Dudley of that time, and was so connected with him by various obligations, that this nobleman was induced to give his only daughter in marriage to the son of Mr. Ward. The young people wer carcely united, before the Rebellion broke out, and the king was compelled to retire to Oxford.

He was accompanied thither by all the loyal adherents to his person and household, and amongst others by Mr. and Mrs. Ward and her father, Lord Dudley. The wealth of Mr. Ward was probably very welcome to the court at this period, as it appears that he was very soon in great favour with the king. A short time, indeed, afforded a substantial proof of the good graces of his Majesty. Lord Dudley happening to die whilst the court was at Oxford, the king sent immediately for Mr. Ward, and, ordering a new patent to be prepared, conferred the vacant title upon him.

In our relation of this circumstance, it should be added, in justice to the present family, that the calling of a citizen of London, and more especially that of a goldsmith was of so much repute in this early period of our history, that no gentleman deemed himself degraded by having a son or nephew apprenticed to such a trade; and

that many of our first nobility, as we have already had occasion to state, owe their origin to this class. The Wards, as owners of an estate and manor, were previously a most respectable family in Suffolk; and it was only in conformity with the simpler manners of those times, that their heir had become a London goldsmith.

From Mr. Ward, who was created Lord Dudley, there has been a regular descent of the family through six or seven peers to the present day, though not all in the right line of father and son. In the year 1763, the direct line failed, and a new creation was made by his late Majesty, by which the cousin of the last nobleman was created Lord Dudley and Ward. The present Lord Dudley, if we mistake not, is the grandson of this nobleman.

He was born about the year 1781, and having received his education in a public school in which he was contemporary, we believe, with the late Mr. Canning, he accompanied that gentleman to Christ Church, where he completed his education under Dr. Jackson, the celebrated Dean of that College. Perhaps, of all the extraordinary men of his day none exceeded the late Cyril Jackson, and no one ever educated so many men for public life; and though a collegian, and never rising to a higher dignity in the Church than that of a Dean and President of the first College in Oxford, no one possessed a more extensive influence through all departments of the ministry. He owed this influence to two causes,—the first, a most powerful mind in every thing to which he applied himself,—and

secondly, to his most distinguished gentlemanly manners, enforced by ardour and sincerity in his religious practice and example. It was scarcely possible to be educated under the auspices of a man like this, without imbibing some portion of his character. A contemporary statesman of the same name with Lord Dudley, but no relation, Mr. Robert Ward, the brother-in-law of Lord Mulgrave, has rendered ample justice to the character of Dean Jackson, in his pleasing novel of Tremaine, where Dr. Jackson is exactly described in one of the early friends of his Hero. The Dean was in full fame in the early part of our own life; we remember when he declined a bishopric himself, and procured it for his friend Dr. Randolph, at that time one of the canons of Christ Church. He was in the habit of attending the yearly elections at Westminster School, observing the abilities displayed by the boys, and giving his own interest as an elector to such of them as he deemed to be of the most promising talents. We believe, that in many of the highest offices of the State, there are now public men, who owe their fortune and condition in life entirely to the good offices of this excellent man. We are enabled to add, that he died a most exemplary Christian, employing his last years in biblical studies, and endeavouring to live up to the holy rule of life, which became impressed upon his heart.

At the time Lord Dudley was at Christ Church, the high estimation of that College rendered it

the resort of the sons of the first families in England, Ireland, and Scotland; it had seldom a less number of noblemen than from fourteen to twenty; and thus, in consequence of his long residence there, the Dean, Dr. Cyril Jackson, had a principal share in the education of most of the public men of the present day. Lord Dudley cannot but remember the admirable discipline which this eminent man always maintained, and perhaps he yet retains much of the happy effect of his paternal superintendance. One eminent example of Dr. Jackson's impartiality and rigid discipline occurred, we believe, in Lord Dudley's own time, and to one of his Lordship's contemporaries and fellow students in Christ Church.

At the commencement of the long vacation, the Dean had given out a general order, that no member of Christ Church should be seen at the Oxford races; and to secure the strict execution of this order, it was added, that all the young men (who might be at Oxford) should attend the nine o'clock chapel. Lord Duncannon, then a member of the college, had previously engaged to dance with one of the Duke of Marlborough's daughters at the assembly in the evening, and rather than violate his engagement, he thought he would venture to transgress the Dean's order. In consequence of this, the Dean, on the following morning, sent his compliments, requesting to speak with his Lordship. Lord Duncannon, knowing the character of the Dean, and his inflexibility as to any rule of discipline, saw at once

what would ensue, and, in order to avoid expulsion, immediately withdrew his name from the books. He then waited upon Dr. Jackson, who instantly informed him, that, according to the rule upon which he always acted, he should be under the disagreeable necessity of striking his name from the college books. To which his Lordship, with much candour replied, "Sir, I well knew your determined resolution in all matters of discipline, and I feel myself compelled to applaud it. In the present case, I have anticipated the effect of your purpose; but I hope I shall have the honour of retaining your friendship." Thus, without any anger or ungentlemanly conduct on either side, was this affair conducted. The Dean was determined to maintain his ground in enforcing the discipline of the college; and he did maintain it, though without giving unnecessary offence to the nobleman, who suffered as an example.

As the character of Lord Dudley, in common with that of many other noblemen and statesmen, must necessarily have been influenced by the daily example and unceasing precepts of such a preceptor; and as it occurred to the writer of this memoir to be at the University nearly at the same period, it may be allowed us to dwell with some zeal upon a name like that of the late Cyril Jackson. He was, in every respect, one of the most shining and extraordinary characters of his day. With a sharp and pleasant wit, and with the manners of

the most polished gentleman, though seldom going beyond the walls of his college, he united in a most singular degree the solid attainments of exact and profound learning with the habits and knowledge of the man of public life. Though so rigid and inflexible, indeed stern and despotic, in all matters of discipline, no one was more free, affable, and jocose, in general conversation, even amongst his own young men, except when he deemed it necessary to assume the dignity of the head of the college. It was this union of learning and manners, of knowledge and personal accomplishments, which occasioned him to be selected as tutor to his present Majesty, at that time Prince of Wales; and it was these qualities which enabled him, in the execution of this office, to give so much satisfaction. The King and the Government never forgot his services; indeed, in almost every administration, more than one of the leading and effective offices of the state have been filled by his pupils. Upon the death of Archbishop Newcombe, the primacy of Ireland, a place of great wealth, was offered for his acceptance, and refused without hesitation. We have before said, that, in our own time, he was offered the Bishopric of Oxford, which he likewise declined, but solicited it for his friend and fellow collegian, Dr. Randolph. In a word, we believe there was no preferment, that became vacant in his day, which he might not have received; but it appeared to be one of

the rules of his conduct, that, having been adopted in early life by his college, he would remain in it whilst he had the strength and vigour to discharge his duties; and that whatever influence he might possess, he would employ it in favour of his friends. Such, at least, was his practice:—his favourite principle was the maintenance of the predominance of the Established Church, and he assiduously laboured to render all the nobility and gentry of his college its suitable pillars and supports.

Upon leaving the University, Mr. Ward entered the House of Commons as member for Wareham, and afterwards for Worcestershire. Though he entered Parliament in very busy times, he distinguished himself in no other mode than as a steady friend of Government. In the year 1806, whilst he was member for the county, the Whig ministry came into power, and all those obnoxious measures were proposed and carried, which have justly rendered the name of this party so odious to the great majority of the country. Though a singular condition of public affairs enabled the Whigs to employ the powers of the Government against the interests of the State, we are not aware that Lord Dudley, at that time Mr. Ward, supported any of these measures by his vote in the House. We believe he had no share whatever in the Property-tax, and certainly not in doubling its amount, after having for years held it up to general execration, as a system of oppression and

inquisition, entirely unworthy of a free government. Though not a man of ambitious pretensions, Lord Dudley has always been known as an honest and consistent politician; and though we speak upon this subject without having the votes of the House before us, we have little doubt but that we represent his conduct correctly, during the brief existence of the former Whig ministry.

During the busy period that followed, the country was happily released from this ministry, and the war, being carried on with sincerity, was conducted with a vigorous determination to its true end. With all the private and political failings of the late Marquis of Londonderry, he had a hearty and truly English aversion of Buonaparte, and he spared no efforts to animate the cabinet and country to a persevering contest. It is well known, that a very large portion of the British nobility belonging to both political parties, that is to say, Whigs as well as Tories, participated in the same feelings and sentiments, being well persuaded, as Lord Fitzwilliam stated, that their titles and estates were worth fighting for, and that there would shortly be an end of such things, unless the system of the Revolution were entirely destroyed. The Marquis of Londonderry, therefore, possessed, in this respect, the confidence and good wishes of the great majority of the English gentry and nobility; and though Mr. Canning could not forget what had passed between them, he and his friends, and Lord Dudley amongst

them, could not refuse him the praise which he had so well earned.

Lord Dudley succeeded his father in the year 1823, but, though called up to the House of Peers, he seems to have taken no share whatever in the public occurrences. His father, like most of his ancestors, died rich, and thus left his son without a motive for embarking in the troubled sea of politics. From the day of his entrance into the House of Peers, to that of his becoming one of his Majesty's ministers, we are not aware of his having delivered his opinion upon any public measure, in any other mode than by a silent vote. If he possess any talents of this kind, it is obvious that he sees no due occasion for exerting them. Possibly, like Butler's Knight, he may abound in wit, and, like the same example, may be only shy in using it.

At the time we are writing, he is, in name, one of his Majesty's Secretaries of State, but we shrewdly suspect, that he will have changed this character before this volume shall have issued from the press. At the same time, as we believe him to be a sincere honest politician, pretending to nothing but the direct discharge of his obvious duties, too candid and straight forward for intrigue, and too rich to become the tool of any party for the sake of place and its emoluments, we think that the King and country may change for the worse, if, in losing an honest secretary, they should find an intriguer.

DR. KIDD.

IT is an observation but too justly founded, that though biography is always one of the most interesting branches of literature, it is very seldom productive of the instruction which seems to belong to it. In its proper nature, it is a narrative of the conduct and character of its subject in the real occurrences of life, with a just account of the practical results of such conduct and character; and therefore moral truths are inculcated in the most striking and forcible manner, because illustrated by facts coming home to the experience of all men. But it too frequently happens, that biographers are either friends or rivals, and therefore bring to their work feelings and prejudices adverse to a faithful and impartial narrative. The love of the individual, or a less friendly sentiment, thus supersedes the love of truth, or prevents the just operation of it; failings are palliated or exaggerated, merits highly coloured or obscured, the biography becomes any thing but a just picture of life. From these causes of defects it is hoped that the biographies in this volume are wholly exempt. Whilst, in many cases, as in the present subject, an opportunity of intimate knowledge of the individual has afforded all the requisite means of information, no undue partiality, it is presumed, has distorted the details. The writer of the following life, as of many of the preceding, was the school-fellow of,

and had an early acquaintance with, the subject, and therefore relates nothing but what he himself knows.

The following brief sketch is so far valuable, inasmuch as it is the life of a man, who owes every thing to himself and to his own industry and efforts,—having by his study and learning raised himself to a name and condition of the first respectability, and to circumstances of comparative opulence.

It is an observation of much truth, that two things are necessary to concur to lead to success in life,—abilities, and that degree of good fortune which affords the opportunity to shew them. Any one, who has lived long and seen much, will find examples of this truth within his own experience. It is not forty years from the present time, since the Duke of Wellington was known only as a heavy school-boy in a private school at Chelsea, (a Mr. Gower's school), whilst his brother Gerard, now Dr. Wellesley, who was at the same school, was universally reputed to be a youth of the first abilities. The Duke, however, by the aid of what the world calls golden opportunities, has risen to what we see him; whilst those who exceeded him in early life and early promise, have passed into oblivion. Every profession is full of the same examples, and none more than the professions of law and medicine. In law, it is a notorious observation, that very few of the highest names could venture to mention their grandfather, and that

almost every Lord Chancellor has been the first gentleman of his race. In medicine, the names of most of the eminent men of the present day were almost wholly unknown, till those who now bear them have so meritoriously illustrated them. Yorkshire, Westmoreland, and Scotland, have usually sent forth their hardy sons, to seek fortune and reputation in the Capital; and having nothing to depend upon but themselves and their own industry, the young men have usually outstripped their richer and more delicate competitors. It is from these circumstances, that we so frequently behold men in the first offices of the Church and State, for whom at their and our own outset in life no one could anticipate such honourable distinctions; whilst the back ground of the picture of life is filled with men, whose families, connexions, and favourable circumstances of fortune promised the certain attainment of wealth and honour.

Dr. Kidd is of respectable parentage, and was born in London about 1770, being now in his fifty-seventh or fifty-eighth year. At the suitable age he was sent to Westminster School, which was at that time under the late Dean, Dr. Vincent, as head master, one of the best classical scholars of his time. Those who remember Westminster School at that period, and those in particular who enjoyed the valuable advantage of being educated in that institution, will find no difficulty in recalling to their remembrance the singular zeal and ability with which that eminent man laboured

in the instruction of his boys. Having about three hundred of the youth of the first families in the kingdom entrusted to his care, as head master of Westminster, it was his unwearied effort to send them forth upon the grand stage of the world, qualified to act their several parts, and not only as eminent classical scholars, but accurately and deeply instructed in the principles of our holy religion. It will be impossible for these gentlemen to forget, with how much interesting fervour, and sincere feeling and piety, he laboured to infuse into the boys a due taste for the beauties of the sacred volume, in his exposition of what in the school is called "The Bible Exercise," in the morning of every Saturday. It is the weekly task of the boys to translate or paraphrase into Latin hexameter verse, a portion of the Bible, generally some of the historical incidents, and it is the duty of the head master to explain and comment upon the subject selected, in order to assist the understanding and imagination of the boys. Dr. Vincent was unexampled in the feeling and ability with which he executed this duty, and we will not hesitate to assert, that the happy result of it has been, that Westminster, during his life, sent out more accomplished scholars than all the other public schools taken together.

Whilst at Westminster, that is from about 1782 to 1793, Dr. Kidd had as his school-fellows and contemporaries, the present Earl of Mansfield, the Marquis of Lansdown, Lord Ashburton, Lord

William Bentinck, the present Governor-General of India, the Duke of Bedford, and the Duke of Rutland, and many other noblemen and gentlemen, who are now acting their several parts in the theatre of public affairs. In these days of London Universities and Mechanic Institutes, the value of such public schools as those of Westminster, Eton, Winchester, and Rugby, will surely be duly appreciated by those who are attached to our establishments in Church and State, when it is remembered (by those who know the fact by experience), that the two leading principles and objects of these schools are to form their youth to sound learning and gentlemanly manners; to teach them that the religion of the country is the religion of truth, and has never encountered any antagonist which it has not foiled; that all the shallow infidelity of the day has only been copied from the sceptics of the early part of the last century, and has only been revived in the present day after it was effectually put down by the answers it received at the time it appeared.

In the year 1789, young Kidd was elected on the foundation. When the school was established by Queen Elizabeth, it was ordered in the statutes, that, besides the boys to be educated at the expense of their parents, who are called Town Boys, there should be a college of forty youths, into which ten should be elected each year, that they might replace ten who should be sent to Cambridge and Oxford, there to receive studentships and scholar-

ships. The ten elected into the college are chosen from the best scholars in the school. According to the statutes, all the youths who are desirous of becoming members of the college, or King's Scholars as they are termed, stand out every year, and are examined in class by the head master, during about a fortnight or three weeks; at the end of which time, the ten head boys of the class are elected. The contest during this trial is very sharp. The two last boys of the class (those who are last upon the first standing out), begin it by challenging each other,—that is, the last gives a Greek epigram to the other, and then asks him every possible question in the Greek Grammar, and, if he misses any, takes him down; upon which the boy who has lost his place gives another epigram to the one who has taken it, and in the same manner challenges him. Thus the contest proceeds from day to day, and from the bottom to the top of the class, till the time of election, when the ten boys at the head are declared elected.

It is, therefore, no inconsiderable proof of early abilities to *get into* College, as it is termed in the school; indeed, the honour is so distinguished, and success must be attained by such a proficiency in the niceties of the Greek Grammar, and by such a useful exercise of the memory, that it is an object of ambition to the boys of the first family. At the time Dr. Kidd was at Westminster, Lord Stormont, the present Earl of Mansfield, was, as before

stated, his school-fellow, and was a short time afterwards elected a king's scholar. The present Lord Normanton was a king's scholar of the next or following year; and if any of our readers should happen to visit the Dormitory, or College, in which the forty scholars sleep, he would see engraven on the ancient walls, many names which now fill the first offices in the country.

Upon leaving Westminster, young Kidd was elected to Christ Church, Oxford, being one of the four which are annually chosen from that school. One of the best scholars and most accomplished men in Europe, Dr. Jackson, was (as before stated) at that period Dean of Christ Church, and had a singular pleasure in selecting young men of abilities, and then giving them every attention to assist their studies and pursuits in life. Dr. Jackson was, in every respect, one of the most extraordinary characters of the age in which he lived, and was so well known and so generally esteemed by the first personages in the State, as to possess an influence very greatly exceeding what belonged to his rank, though that likewise was highly respectable. It is well known, that he had once at least declined an advancement to the episcopal bench, and ever afterwards persisted in the refusal of this honour. He was not only the occasion, we believe, of the promotion of Dr. Randolph to the see of Oxford, but also of his translation to London; and, whilst he lived, was frequently consulted and visited by the leading men in administration. He was exceedingly generous in his patronage of

others, and was generally beloved and esteemed both for his sincere piety and accomplished manners.

The studentships of Christ Church, to one of which Dr. Kidd was elected from Westminster, do not exceed in annual value £100; some of them, we believe, not even reaching that sum. Yet upon such humble stipend have many of the first scholars of the day supported themselves, both during their University course and afterwards, till they have established themselves in their future profession. Mr. Kidd did this. He immediately chose the profession of physic, and applied himself to its study with all his energies. Oxford and Cambridge, unluckily, contain no means of a medical education within themselves, though, by something like an anomaly, no one can become a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, unless he shall have studied and taken his medical degree at the one or other of these Universities.

Accordingly, from the necessity of the case, rather than from choice, for choice would have led Mr. Kidd to remain at Oxford, he quitted Christ Church after he had taken his degree, and, coming to London, with no other income than his studentship, (which is always retained till marriage,) he entered himself at Guy's Hospital, and studied there for four years, as a physician's pupil. Here he was particularly observed and noticed by Dr. Saunders, a generous patron of rising merit, who spared no effort to place him in the chemical

department as Lecturer to the Hospital. Dr. Saunders was physician to the King, and senior physician of Guy's Hospital, and possessed a reputation equal to his long experience. He owed his own fortune and renown to his abilities only. He was in early life a pupil of the celebrated Dr. Cullen, and had been selected by this eminent physician as his friend and constant associate, from a persuasion of his skill and abilities. Having come to London with this recommendation, he was immediately distinguished by Sir George Baker, who very shortly afterwards proposed to the College of Physicians to dispense, in his case, from regard to his great merit, with the requisites of a degree and residence at Cambridge, and to elect him *per saltum* a Fellow of the College.

Under such a patron as this, it was to be expected that Dr. Kidd would advance both in reputation and knowledge. Accordingly, Dr. Kidd became known, and, doubtless, esteemed according to his abilities; and having at length concluded the usual course in the hospitals and medical institutions in London, he returned to Oxford to take his degree. He took his Doctor's degree in 1802, and, as he saw a good opening, he resolved to remain in that University, and practise as a physician. The practice of the town and University was at this time in possession of Sir Christopher Pegge; but as this gentleman had already acquired a competent fortune, and was

inclined to retire, Dr. Kidd and his friends thought that a suitable opening presented itself.

The writer of this memoir may, perhaps, be allowed to divert in some degree from his subject, and indulge for a moment in the recollections of his early life. He still remembers the fine portly figure and gentlemanly manners of this eminent physician, Sir C. Pegge, at that time in full practice in the University, and since practising as a physician in the metropolis. He was not only a man of most finished manners, but of the first degree of scholarship. He had been successively a Fellow of Oriel College, and Dr. Lee's Lecturer in the University, and regularly delivered two courses of lectures every year. Sir Christopher had taken his degree as Doctor of Medicine in the year 1792, and continued in practice till 1816, when he was obliged to relinquish his further residence in Oxford, in consequence of repeated attacks of an asthmatic affection. He then resigned both his practice and lectureship in favour of Dr. Kidd, who had been educated at the same college, and very much resembled him in acquisitions of scholarship and general learning. In one point, Greek literature, Dr. Kidd certainly exceeded Dr. Pegge, though Sir Christopher was in every respect a very considerable scholar.

Dr. Kidd likewise succeeded Sir Christopher in all his other University honours. The Radcliffe Infirmary, at Oxford, is a most respectable institution, and its relief is extended over four

different counties. It was erected by the trustees of Dr. Radcliffe's will, after they had defrayed the expenses of the celebrated library. It is supported by voluntary contributions, and its medical establishment consists of four physicians and four surgeons. One of these gentlemen, at the period of which we are speaking, familiarly, and with something like fondness, termed in the University *Jack Ireland*, was as well known in our day as Mother Goose herself; and when we recollect his pleasant manners, his hearty address, and his humourous oddities, it is impossible not to feel a lively regret that the scythe of time has swept him off the stage. He was the general apothecary, as Dr. Pegge was the general physician. Both flourished together, and both went off, we believe, nearly at the same time.

Dr. Kidd became Radcliffe physician on the resignation of Dr. Pegge; and in the succeeding year he was elected Aldrichean Professor of Chemistry, two appointments which afforded him the opportunity of shewing his chemical talents and medical knowledge. In both of these eminent situations, and particularly in the department of Dr. Lee's lecturer, he answered all the expectations of the University. He owed these appointments to his acknowledged abilities, and he shews that he well merits them by the active exercise of his talents. We should not, indeed, have omitted to mention, that the Lectureship of Anatomy was established by the munificence of Dr. Lee,

who, having been a Westminster scholar, (so at least we presume,) gave by his will certain exhibitions for young men from Westminster school, and £20,000 to establish an anatomical lectureship, and afford a liberal stipend for the lecturer.

Whilst Dr. Kidd was in the active exercise of these appointments, and during the eight or ten first years of his residence at Oxford, he annually gave, by permission of the Vice-Chancellor of the University, a public course of lectures on mineralogy and geology. With the assistance of some friends, and by his own unwearied industry, he likewise considerably enriched the Ashmolean Museum. Professor Buckland had not as yet given a new form to geological science, nor proved, beyond all manner of doubt, that all the appearances both on the surface of the globe and beneath it, in vegetable and animal remains, might be explained consistently with the received age of the world, by two causes—fissures in the earth, and subterranean waters. Dr. Kidd's book was nearly the first of its kind—that is, an explanation of geological phenomena, consistent with the received history of mankind; and, though not so complete and satisfactory as the subsequent work of Buckland, was entitled to some praise. The truth, however, is, that more study, and more experience—a stronger reliance on his own mind, and less respect for the philosophers and geologists of the French school, would have rendered

Dr. Kidd's "Outlines of Mineralogy," and "Essays on Geology," works of more value.

The above are the two principal works of Dr. Kidd, if we except what, we believe, was an earlier production—a new and enlarged edition of "Dawes' Miscellanea Critica."—We are not, however, certain, whether we give this name correctly, as we here speak only from our own memory, and from facts many years past. We know, however, of our own knowledge in early life, that Dr. Kidd is an eminent classical scholar, and one of those who keep up their Greek in the midst of an active and laborious profession.

There are three modes by which every physician must rise into practice, and without one, at least, of which he cannot expect to attain fame or fortune. The first of these is the possession of very extraordinary abilities, made known through the press, or by general reputation at the hospitals; such as were the abilities of John Hunter, which by these means forced themselves into notice. The second mode is by a sufficient and respectable skill, accompanied by adequate wealth to enable him to maintain an imposing appearance and establishment. The third is by being adopted and introduced by some physician of acknowledged abilities, and considerable practice and reputation, either with a view of being his successor, or with the mere object and purpose of a generous patronage. Dr. Kidd owed his success, which is

very considerable, to the last of these causes. In the first place, he was adopted by Dr. Saunders: in the second, he was introduced into the practice of Dr. Pegge; Sir Christopher, as above stated, being compelled to retire in consequence of a confirmed asthma. In the third place, being a Christ Church student, and having been educated at Westminster (the public school peculiarly belonging to Christ Church) the Dean and Fellows of that Society all united to advance him, and either to elect him themselves, or procure him to be elected, to all the profitable and honourable employments in the University, as they became vacant.

As the studentships of Christ Church can be held during celibacy only, Dr. Kidd, we believe, has never ventured on a wife. He is now about fifty-six years of age. Whilst his very comfortable and creditable situation and practice reflect great honour on himself, (having been attained by his industry and active exertion), they confer no less lustre on the University, who, seeing and knowing his abilities, have so liberally rewarded them, and so generously advanced him.

LORD ORIEL.

IRELAND, though so important a part of the British monarchy, is so little known in its interior geography to Englishmen, that it certainly will not be wholly unnecessary to mention, in writing for the general reader, that one whole side of Ireland, called the northern side, extends along and opposite to the western coast of England and Scotland; the distance, in some places, being one hundred English miles, in others fifty, and in others not thirty. This northern line comprehends six Irish counties, namely, Wexford, Wicklow, Dublin, Louth, Down, and Antrim. Of these six counties, the most important, because opposite to the most trading district in England, that of Lancashire, is Louth, now of the first consequence, and promises hereafter to become the most opulent. The first nobleman in this county, in talents and political influence, is, unquestionably, the subject of this memoir, formerly so well known as the Speaker of the Irish House of Commons, the leader of the Anti-Catholic party, and the patriotic originator of the corn trade of Ireland, and of the manufactures of Louth. We believe, indeed, that there are but two other Protestant noblemen in the county,—the Earl of Roden, and the Marquis of Conyngham.

John Foster, Lord Oriel, is the son of the late

Chief Baron Foster, and was born about the year 1750. At a very early age, as is the custom of Ireland, whose college is of the nature of a grammar school, he was entered of Trinity College, Dublin, so that he may be said to have received his whole education in that institution. This college was much celebrated in that æra for the sound learning of its different professors; and so much were these gentlemen and their successors attached not only to learning itself, but to the form in which they had acquired it; that Trinity College, Dublin, almost alone amongst all other European Universities, has still retained the logic and metaphysics of Aristotle, while the good sense of England has utterly expelled these incumbering frivolities of the human understanding. The old form of discipline had, however, one advantage: it trained young men to the habits of laborious stduy, and to the practice of a system of method and analytical enquiry, which, in minds of a certain compass, became afterwards of great utility in the practice of life. It is now well known that two of the greatest statesmen in modern times, the late Mr. Burke and Mr. Windham, were profoundly skilled and rather pedantically attached to the Aristotelian system; and no one will venture to speak in contempt of such men.

At Trinity College, Mr. Foster was contemporary with three eminent men,—Mr. Grattan, Lord Clare, and Provost Hutchinson. It was said of the latter of these gentlemen, that he

asked at the same time for a Majority in a horse regiment, and the Ecclesiastical dignity of Provost of Trinity College. Upon which the Lord Lieutenant, Lord Westmoreland, observed, pointing to him as he left the room, "There goes a man of a thousand, my Lords; give him all Ireland for his estate, and he will ask the Isle of Man for his potatoe garden."

Mr. Foster quitted college in the year 1776, and was immediately, or very shortly afterwards, called to the Irish bar. But, well knowing his own abilities, he resolved to try his fortune in a wider field, and strenuously applied himself to the study of what was at that period entirely new,—political economy and practical statistics. He saw that Ireland possessed very great capacity of being rendered more productive in agriculture and manufactures; and that she laboured under great impediments, arising in part from a mistaken policy in her administration, and in part from her ignorance of her own resources. Mr. Foster applied himself with the most deliberate and determined industry to attain a knowledge of these resources. He resolved to examine what was the actual condition of her agriculture, trade, and manufactures; and how far each might admit of an increase under a better system, and by what impediments the prosperity of Ireland was retarded. From the beginning of his political course, Mr. Foster seems to have fixed upon this as his main object; and the result has been that degree of

success, and of personal advancement, which always attend upon industry so well directed and perseveringly maintained.

In about four years after, in the year 1780, Mr. Foster was elected member for Louth, and immediately became distinguished in the Irish House of Commons. He had scarcely, indeed, taken his seat in that House, before he began to open his celebrated plan for the improvement of Ireland, by extending her agriculture and manufactures.

With respect to agriculture, his plan was simply this,—that the English Ministry should grant a free export for Irish corn; by which means it would gradually attain a price which would encourage its larger cultivation, and thus enrich both the landlord and the farmer,—the landlord gaining higher rents, and the farmer, a better price in a richer market. After a long course of difficulties, seemingly insuperable, Mr. Foster has lived to see the full attainment of this object. In the year 1770, whilst Lord Oriel was yet a youth, Ireland, though a potatoe-feeding country, could not grow corn enough to supply her own bread. In 1827, Ireland imports into England alone the value of nearly half a million pounds sterling in corn. One consideration only will shew what both countries owe to Mr. Foster in this respect. In England, without the annual importation from Ireland, the price of wheat would now exceed five pounds a quarter.

The next part of Mr. Foster's plan was to im-

prove and extend the manufactures of Ireland; and in this he has likewise succeeded to an incredible extent, and particularly as regards the introduction of the cotton manufacture into Ireland generally, and into his own county of Louth in particular. The introduction of the cotton manufacture into Ireland was indeed as extraordinary in its mode, as it has been important in its consequences. In the year 1777, a Mr. Joy, a mere travelling gentleman, happened to pass through the cotton districts of Scotland, where he was very forcibly impressed with the astonishing activity of that manufacture, and with its important results upon the wealth and prosperity of the country. It suddenly came into his mind, that no country required the aid of such a mode of employing its population more than Ireland, and that he would make the attempt to introduce it. Accordingly, upon his return to Belfast, where he happened to reside, he proposed to the overseers of that populous town, that, since their poor were so numerous, and there was no employment for them, they should give him the use of the Poor-house for a factory, and he would set the children to work in spinning cotton yarn. The overseers complied; the children were set to work; some imperfect machinery was made upon the spot, and a good workman procured from Scotland to instruct them. As the rough machinery was soon found to be insufficient, Mr. Joy next despatched, at his own expense, a skilful mechanic to Scot-

land; to make a secret inspection of the most improved machinery. This person executed his commission with ability; and, upon his return, enabled his employers to erect a carding machine and spinning jenny,—the first ever seen in Ireland. The result was, that in less than sixteen years afterwards, namely, in the year 1800, the cotton manufactories of Belfast only, and of a circuit of ten miles around it, employed 20,000 persons, of whom 11,000 are working weavers. These persons, in that single town and neighbourhood only, work up annually 12,000 bags of cotton, the prime cost of which is not, on the average, less than £200,000; whilst the value of the manufactured stock, from this amount of raw material, must certainly exceed one million pounds sterling. So much may one patriotic individual confer upon a country.

Such were the subjects upon which Mr. Foster employed himself, and which, by his own active efforts and patronage, he has greatly advanced in Ireland generally, and particularly in the county of Louth. Indeed, if any man have a peculiar claim to the grateful remembrance of Ireland and Irish proprietors, it is Mr. Foster.

These two measures, the corn laws, and promoting the introduction of the cotton manufacture into Louth and Ireland, were Mr. Foster's first steps towards the improvement of the country, and towards the employment of its immense surplus population; his third measure was the

extension of the linen manufacture, and the removal of the impediments by which it was opposed. It is scarcely necessary to mention, that linen has been from the earliest ages the staple of Ireland, as wool and tin have been those of England. In the earliest historians, the dress of the ancient Irish is described to be a linen robe, like a surplice, only dyed yellow, and made fast by a girdle round the middle. Camden says, that O'Neil and his followers were so clad when they visited Queen Elizabeth, and there are several statutes, as early as the reign of Henry VIII., in which the Irish are mentioned as having been the makers and exporters of linen for an hundred years. In the reign of Charles II. we had all our linens from France; and imported from that kingdom to the amount of halfa million pounds, sterling, in value. In the year 1673, Sir William Temple first made the observation, that it was the true policy of the English Government to encourage the linen trade of Ireland; and that, if this policy were pursued, we should soon drive France out of the market. This suggestion was almost immediately acted upon, and with so much effect that the supply from Ireland was in ten years found to be sufficient for the consumption of England; and an Act of Parliament was passed, that all further importation of that manufacture should thereafter cease. From that time till the present day the manufacture has been on the increase. In the following reign of Queen Anne, the Board

of Trustees for the Linen and Hempen Manufactures was established, and in the following reign the Dublin Linen was erected, by authority of the King and Parliament. Thenceforwards, the manufacture was divided and separated into the two main branches in which it at present exists—the making the brown linen, and the bleaching it. Accordingly, the linen unbleached is now only sold in the fairs and markets, and bought by the bleachers, who finish it, and export or sell it to factors on the spot.

Such is the present state of the linen trade, the great staple of Ireland. One sentence will be sufficient to shew its rapid and extraordinary progress. In the reign of King William III. in the year 1700, the amount of linen exported from Ireland was in value only £6000. In the year 1809, the number of yards exported exceeded forty-three million, and in value amounted to nearly six millions pounds sterling.

To the improvement and advancement of these three great sources of national wealth, corn, linen, and cotton, did Mr. Foster apply himself with unwearied industry, and having become Chancellor of the Exchequer in Ireland, he employed the weight and authority of Government to accomplish his views. So mistaken, however, is popular favour in its object, that, in despite of all these great public services, Mr. Foster was at one time so unpopular in Ireland, as not to be able to move from his house without personal danger.

He was compelled to request that a guard should be attached to his house, and the Government complied with his desire.

From the situation of Chancellor of the Exchequer, he was very shortly advanced to that of Speaker of the Irish House of Commons, whilst it existed. In this high office he continued to follow the same general principles. He supported English interests, but seemed never to have forgotten the peculiar necessities of Ireland. He had not to learn, that, for a long series of years, the Irish revenue had been considered as a kind of ready fund for all needy placemen; and that a long succession of Irish administrations had incumbered the country with pensioners and sinecurists out of number. To this system, Mr. Foster, we believe, opposed a steady and determined resistance, whilst, on the other hand, he maintained the authority of the English Government, as being essentially necessary to the peace and welfare of Ireland. He had much difficulty in steering clear of any excess in observing the due medium, but his present reputation is a proof that he fully succeeded.

Upon the union, he was advanced to the dignity of Lord Oriel.

In private life, Lord Oriel is very justly regarded as a most accomplished gentleman, with the manners becoming his rank, and a very noble and manly simplicity in his domestic and social intercourse. His income is large, and he spends it liberally.

LORD HOLLAND.

FROM the time of the Revolution in 1688, to the present period, the kingdom has always been politically divided into two great parties, the Whigs and the Tories. It is certainly an event of some singularity, that the Whig families have almost invariably been amongst those who owe their rank and fortunes entirely to the crown, and who now employ all their influence to restrain and control that prerogative whence their power emanated. The fundamental principle of the Whigs is, in the words of one of their early leaders, that the power of the crown has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished; and that, to effect that most desirable reduction of power and influence, it is the duty of the Whig party to oppose every increase of the army, every augmentation of revenue, and every creation or extension of places and patronage. Yet, strange to say, almost all these families have originated only in the royal favour, and most of them have been raised into name and consequence by the very means, against which they now array themselves. Thus the family of Russel, Dukes of Bedford, one of the hereditary leaders of the Whig party, was raised from the rank of a household attendant upon the court, by the favour of Henry VIII.; and having obtained the good graces of that monarch,

by a course of conduct not the most pure and honourable, was advanced to rank and wealth upon the spoils of the plundered Abbeys. The family of Petty, Marquises of Lansdown, owed their whole fortune, in like manner, to the favour of the crown; the head of that family (however respectable from his own personal worth), being the son of a clothier in some small town in Hampshire, and having been advanced to fortune by his appointment of Surveyor of the forfeited lands in Ireland. The family of Earl Grey, another Whig leader, deems itself so entirely originating in royal favour, that it has assumed a motto expressive of its resolution to serve the king in all events. *De bon vouloir servir le roi,* is the motto of the nobleman, who, on almost every occasion, is still found most staunchly in array against the court and its ministers. We might in like manner travel through nearly all of the Whig leaders and followers; they have all the merit of postponing their own personal obligations to the calls of their party, and forgetting their gratitude in their patriotism. They have all grown from the character of creatures of the crown into its imperious dictators; under the favour of their master they are now enabled to wear their hats in his presence and compel him to hold what remains of his former power according to their good will. As regards the king, they are republicans; as regards the people, a stern, assuming, over-bearing aristocracy; without sympathy with the public feelings, or any

community with public interests; and as regards the church, they are little more than French Philosophers, tolerant of all opinions, because respecting none.

To proceed, however, to our subject, having thus briefly noticed the party, of which, next to Lord Grey, (at the present moment), he is the ostensible leader —

The family of Fox, as compared with the ancient nobility, is of modern date, and of humble origin. The founder of the family is noticed by Lord Clarendon. Whilst Lord Percy was at Worcester, he was in the habit of going to the Cathedral, where he was much struck with the fine voice of one of the singing boys. His Lordship wanted a boy of this description in his own household, and he applied to the master of the choir for young Fox, the name of the youth in question. He found that he was the son of a yeoman in Wiltshire, and he had no difficulty in procuring him for his servant. Lord Percy took him to Paris, where he was soon noticed by the Court of Charles the Second, who during the life of Cromwell was resident there. Stephen Fox was a sharp witted youth, and very well calculated to make his way by his double talent of a good singer, and a prudent ingenious youth. The Court required the services of such a youth, and the ladies and lords found him equally useful; the one for their entertainment, and the other for their business. It was greatly to the credit of the young man, and

shows that his principles were well and deeply impressed, that in such a Court, and with such daily companions, he appears to have maintained his morals untainted, and his grave and sober demeanour undiminished. Amidst profligates and revellers, young brawlers, and old debauchees, he appears always to have been an example of sobriety and regularity; punctual in the discharge of all his debts and duties, and seeking no other end than the gradual and honest advancement of his own fortune.

Upon the return of the Royal family to England, Mr. Stephen Fox accompanied them, and was immediately appointed to the sinecure place of Clerk of the Green Cloth, one of those places, which, with 117 others, Mr. Pitt abolished by one Bill. He had held this office but a short time, when the more lucrative place of Paymaster of the Forces became vacant, and was bestowed upon him. About the same period he received the honour of knighthood, and having already commenced the accumulation of a fortune, he began to buy houses and lands, and apply himself in earnest to the foundation of a family. In this respect, he seems to have resembled the present Sir Robert Peel; he appears to have very early conceived the purpose of advancing his name, and having adopted this resolution as the main object of his life, he gave all his actions a direction towards the accomplishment of his purpose.

About this period, he became known to Mr.

Evelyn, the intelligent and accomplished author of "The Diary," lately published under his name. Mr. Evelyn speaks of him with respect and regard, as one of those who had become the architect of his own fortune, by a uniform course of industry, economy, and gravity; living amidst the vanities and follies of a court without catching the contagion; and rendering himself an example of regularity and sobriety in the midst of wantonness and licentiousness.

In the year 1680, Sir Stephen Fox was made one of the Lords of the Treasury, an appointment which was confirmed by King James. The Revolution, which immediately followed, did not affect his fortune; for having concurred in the vote of the House of Commons, by which the Crown was declared to be vacant, he was again appointed one of the Lords of the Treasury.

Sir Stephen was married twice; he married his second lady when he was in his seventy-sixth year, and had two sons by her, one of whom became the first Lord Holland, (the grand-father of the present nobleman), and the other Lord Ilchester.

We cannot conclude this brief notice of Sir Stephen, the founder of this family, without a pleasant extract from some French Memoirs, in which he is mentioned with praise, as characteristic as it is well merited. "This Count," says the author (who is writing his own life), "possessed a thousand courtly modes of refreshing the memory of people who had borrowed money of him, but found it in-

convenient to remember to repay it. The following is a pleasant example:—Sir Stephen Fox, one of the officers of the King's household, was one of the richest and most regular men in the kingdom, and had a daughter who was married to Lord Cornwallis. Sir Stephen's son-in-law was as unlike himself as it is possible to conceive; he was a young spendthrift, loved gaming, lost as much as any one would trust him for, but was not so ready in paying as the Count wished. His father-in-law disapproved of his conduct, paid his debts, and gave him at the same time a sound paternal lecture. The Count had won of him a thousand or twelve hundred guineas, but heard no mention of the payment, although he was upon the eve of his departure, and though, in order to give his Lordship a gentle hint, he had taken leave of Lord Cornwallis, with a more particular expression of his regard in losing such a pleasant friend.—No matter, Lord Cornwallis gave him regret for regret, and returned his shake of the hand with a corresponding shake. The Count was not to be so eluded; he called for his writing materials, and addressed his Lordship in this short billet—'My Lord, pray remember the Count de G. and do not forget Sir Stephen Fox.'"

Henry, the second son of Sir Stephen, was created Lord Holland in the year 1762, when he was about sixty years of age, having previously passed through all the first offices of the State, and having added greatly to the large fortune he re-

ceived from his father. He is described by the writers of that age as a shrewd, cunning, and persevering politician, and he certainly must have possessed talents of some description, as, without much knowledge, and with a very indifferent character, he maintained a long and not unequal contest against all the opposition leaders of his own day. Lord Chesterfield, in his Collection of Political Characters, says of him, that he was skilful in discerning the temper of the House of Commons, and knew when to press, and when to yield, a favourite point, but was a most disagreeable and ungainly speaker, inelegant in his language, and ungraceful in his elocution.

Lord Holland, the present peer, and subject of this memoir, is the son of Stephen, the second Lord Holland, by Lady Mary Fitzpatrick. He was born in the year 1773, and is therefore at present in his fifty-fifth year. At the proper age he was sent to Eton, by his guardians, his father having died in the year 1774, the year next following the birth of his son. We have never heard that he much distinguished himself at Eton, where he was contemporary with the late Mr. Canning, and several other public characters of the present day.

From Eton he was removed to Christ Church, Oxford, where he remained till the year 1792, when he took his degree. Though the French war immediately followed, and cut off from British

intercourse a great portion of what had hitherto constituted the grand tour; Russia and the northern states, and for some time Italy, still remained open for foreign travel. Lord Holland, upon leaving the University, immediately sought these countries; and being provided with letters from his own family and connexions, and particularly from his celebrated uncle, he found every Court and Palace in Europe open to receive him. It is well known how much attached to the Fox family was the Empress Catherine, and, we believe, his reception in the Court of Madrid was as distinguished as in any other place which he visited. In this latter city, he employed himself in examining into the actual state of Spanish literature, and directed his particular attention to the remains of the great dramatic writer, Lope de Vega. Upon his return to England he arranged the results of these studies and researches in some order, and published them in a book, which, if written upon any other subject, we should feel ourselves bound to praise. But we must be allowed to observe, that, we think a British peer, and the head of a family of statesmen, might have easily found a more worthy employment than that of editing a collection of plays, and those the plays of a foreign author. We do not know enough of this book, nor of the Spanish dramatist who constitutes its subject, to be enabled to say much of its literary merit,—we presume that the Spanish poet was worthy of the

English peer, and that by neither of them could we expect the taste and morals of the English nation to be much improved.

Lord Holland returned from his foreign tour about the year 1797, and, in the same year, became unfortunately notorious for his criminal intercourse with the lady of Sir Godfrey Webster. This adulterous connexion became the subject of an action at law, the result of which was, that Sir Godfrey obtained a divorce from the guilty woman, and Lord Holland immediately married her. It may be difficult to say, whether, in a moral and Christian country, such marriages between an adulterer and adulteress ought in any case to be tolerated; such unions being at once a most impolitic encouragement to the commission of the crime, and a desecration of a ceremony which the first interests of society require to be held most sacred. It is no sufficient argument, that marriage is the only amends which the seducer is enabled to make, and is the only means of repairing much of the mischief of the crime: such as the dishonour of the kindred of the adulteress, and the total ruin of herself, from having no means of returning to society. In the first place, it is an error in most of these cases to use the word seduction, and to hold forth the woman as an inferior delinquent, and entitled to a more favourable consideration, than the man. And secondly, the misery and degradation of the guilty party are but a just punishment for the crime, and if it be the

manifest interest of society to prevent the act, the law should be careful not to render the penalty ineffectual. As regards the extension of the disgrace to third parties, it is one of the consequences of crime and its punishment in all cases, and must be borne by them for the public good.

As Lord Holland had been educated for public life almost from his cradle, he no sooner returned from his travels than he took his seat in the House of Lords, and opened his political course, by a maiden speech, of more whimsicality than humour. The topic of debate was upon some point connected with the liberty of the subject. "No man, my Lords," said Lord Holland, "has a greater veneration for the Constitution, than I have; but, I shall praise it as harlequin does his horse—it is a fine horse, a fleet horse, a noble horse—but it has one fault,—it is a dead horse."

From this period, Lord Holland took a prominent station in the ranks of opposition, and gradually became one of the leaders of that party in the House of Lords. It is unnecessary to recal the transactions of that æra; suffice it to say, that he constantly advocated the question of peace, and defended the character of Buonaparte. Perhaps, no political secret was ever better kept than the negotiation between Lord Liverpool and Mr. Otto, which terminated in the signature of the preliminaries of the Peace of Amiens. There is but little doubt, however, that the whole business was known to Lord Holland and Mr. Fox, and

that they very mainly contributed to the successful conclusion. However necessary the war had been, and however apprehensive was a large majority of our most enlightened statesmen, of the effect of British intercourse with France, it cannot be denied that this peace diffused the most lively joy throughout the British empire. All ranks and descriptions of men hailed the return of peace as the sure return of plenty and prosperity, and it was not till after the experience of many months, that all classes saw their error. The merchants, to their confusion and astonishment, found that the sphere of their trade had been lessened instead of increased; that they had lost the monopoly they enjoyed during the war, and that in returning to peace, the continental nations had returned to their ancient channels of domestic supply. The landlords and their tenants found, by the same experience, that war had been their best customer, and that in losing Government from the corn and cattle markets, they had lost their richest and largest consumer. The manufacturers necessarily suffered with the landlords and farmers; in a word, peace was no sooner concluded than all parties became desirous of war; and the joy at the rupture of the peace of Amiens, was scarcely inferior to the general satisfaction upon the return of peace.

Upon the renewal of war, Lord Holland followed the same line of opposition as previous to the treaty of Amiens, and opposed all the measures of

administration for reducing the power of France. He appears to have adopted it as a principle of his party, that it was a sufficient objection to any measure, that it originated with the ministry, inasmuch as its success must have the effect of confirming and strengthening the administration by whom it was introduced. The proposed measure is either good or bad. If good, it is the duty of opposition to oppose it for the sake of their party. If bad, they are bound to oppose it for the sake of the country. Thus, in all circumstances, it becomes the duty of a faithful opposition to oppose the measures of ministry.

In the year 1806, the king called Mr. Fox and his party into administration, and for about a year they conducted the public affairs of the country. Unhappily for themselves, they could not abstain from the introduction of the Catholic Question, by which they alarmed the conscience of the king. His Majesty represented his doubts, and the ground of them, to Lord Kenyon, who replied, that he considered the king to be bound by his Coronation Oath, to maintain the predominance of the Established Church, and that if his Majesty believed that the exclusion of the Catholics from Parliament was a necessary means to that end, he was undoubtedly obliged by his oath to act upon that conviction. This opinion convinced the king, and he peremptorily required that the ministry should abandon their projects of Catholic Emancipation. The party assented, and made no hesi-

tation to abandon their political principles in order to keep their place. The king, knowing the men with whom he had to deal, and that political honour was one thing, and gentlemanly honour another, was not satisfied with the mere withdrawing of the measure, but required a distinct pledge that it should not be resumed in any shape. Upon this, the party, seeing the state of the royal mind, and the degree in which they possessed its confidence, gave in their resignations; the king accepted them with more readiness than they were offered, and a Tory Ministry was immmediately formed.

From this year, 1807, to the present period, Lord Holland and his party have remained in opposition, and have never been wanting in exercising its functions.

These functions are well described in the only pamphlet, (with the exception of one), which the late Mr. Pitt was known to have corrected with his own hand—indeed, we believe we may add, to have written, as the following passage is very much in his style:—"In England, there are two modes by which public opinion can declare itself—but, only one in which it can command any attention—the press and the opposition in Parliament. The press may be put out of the question, as its hundred mouths are always barking against each other, and it is impossible to tell what is the real will of the beast. But the opposition may be said to be the proper constitutional check upon the

king's ministers. When honestly conducted, or even fairly, it watches with a jealous eye the expenditure of public money, the imposition of new taxes, and the creation of new places; it puts the public and ministers themselves upon the alert, and compels them to act vigilantly and honestly, because all their actions are produced to public view." As we quote from memory, we will not answer for the exact words, which are given in a publication by the late Mr. Rose; but having lately seen the passage, we have at least given it in substance.

We do not know whether Lord Holland's opposition has always been of this character, but we know that he has invariably opposed *every thing* which the ministers have introduced. He reminds us of a ludicrous anecdote which we have some where read or heard. When Mr. Partridge, the celebrated Almanack maker, came, in the course of one of his tours, to the border of a wide heath, he had occasion to stop at a blacksmith's shop to have a shoe put upon his horse. The honest man performed the work, and then advised Mr. Partridge to put up at the village Inn for the evening, and not venture across the heath—"for it is many miles across," said he, "and it will rain cats and dogs, according to our country proverb, before you are half over." "No, no" replied Mr. Partridge, "there is no appearance of it"—at the same time resuming his journey. "As you please," rejoined the man, "but you will soon see who is in

the right." Accordingly, Mr. Partridge had scarcely concluded half his journey, before he was drenched to the skin, and was compelled to seek the best shelter in his way. Upon the return of fine weather, he was so much struck with the prediction of the blacksmith, and with his apparent knowledge of the signs of the weather, that he returned in search of him. "My good friend," said he, upon again seeing him, "you were perfectly right,—you must have some secret by which you can thus prognosticate the weather,—here is a guinea for the discovery of it." "Thank you, Sir," said the man, "it is very easily told.—The truth is, Sir, that, my wife takes in an Almanack, made by a lying dog, one Partridge, and he is so sure to be wrong in his guesses, that whenever he puts a day down for fine, I always say that it will be the contrary; and in nine times out of ten, I am right."

Upon this principle, Lord Holland seems to deem every thing wrong which is proposed by the minister, and it appears with him to be a very sufficient reason for opposition, that his Majesty's ministers deem the measure in question to be right and necessary. But we should regret any event which should induce him to withdraw from public life, for vexatious as his opposition may be, it is not always without talent, ingenuity, and public utility.

In the recent changes upon the death of Mr. Canning, there has been an attempt to procure his

admission into the ministry, and, we believe, it had nearly succeeded. The event would have been, that the nobleman, who reluctantly, but weakly, gave his consent to the admission of an enemy into the camp, would himself have been the first sacrifice; for, high as his own office is, and rooted as he may deem himself in royal favour, could he reasonably expect to retain his own predominance in the cabinet, whilst both the home and foreign offices were filled by such coadjutors. Happily, there were others, more sagacious, in this respect, than the nobleman of whom we are speaking, and fortunately the intrigue, for such it was, did not succeed. Let those who have admitted the Whigs in some part into the present administration, beware of adversaries thus become comrades.

In private life, Lord Holland appears to divide his time between business, study, and the social intercourse of his friends. In business, he has lately, by letting a large portion of his long leasehold estate at Kensington, upon building leases, very considerably augmented his income. He is considered, we believe, to be a good and liberal landlord, and he does not carry his desire of increasing his rents to such an extreme, as either to injure the reversion of his own original landlord, or to impair the beauty of the estate. It is almost unnecessary to say, that Holland House, his constant residence, was at one time the abode of Addison, and was finished, or at least touched in

some of its parts, by Inigo Jones. The park, in front, though small, not exceeding twenty acres, is rendered beautiful by its gradual elevation from the road to the house, and in the rear of the house, it becomes still more pleasing and picturesque, by its gradual descent, and by a noble belt of trees entirely surrounding it. The whole park, in front and back, does not exceed, we believe, sixty acres, and is a rare example, how small a compass is necessary in the hands of a tasty artist to complete a beautiful domain. Indeed, the whole of Lord Holland's estate at Kensington does not amount to more than about four hundred acres, which we believe to be held under a long lease from Lord Kensington.

From the connexion of the families of Fox and Petty by marriage, the principal friend and companion of Lord Holland is the present Marquis of Lansdown. While Lord Holland was a boy, he was a constant inmate in Lansdown House, Berkeley Square, and, in common with the present Marquis, enjoyed the advantage of the political discipline and instruction of the late Marquis. This latter nobleman was always surrounded by politicians from all kingdoms in Europe; and, having adopted politics *con amore*, he almost rivalled the Government of the country in his system of couriers and foreign correspondents. He was the dupe, however, of a class of malcontents and disappointed intriguers, and while he imagined he knew more than the ministers them-

selves, he was often only the more egregiously misled and deceived.

One of the favourite studies of Lord Holland appears to be the drama, foreign and domestic; he has already written the life of one dramatic poet, and we believe is a ready patron of all distinguished actors. He may frequently be seen in his box, at one or other of the theatres—indeed more so, than is consistent with his rank and acknowledged good taste. While the present state of the stage seems to have driven the greater portion of our gentry from the theatres, it might be expected that it should not continue to retain the favour of a man so accomplished in taste as Lord Holland.

It is much more to his Lordship's credit, that he is the friend and patron of Mr. Rogers, the poet—the early friend of his celebrated uncle, and his frequent comrade in his country walks. It is also much to the credit of our present nobility, that two of our best living poets, Crabbe and Rogers, were not only nursed into their excellence by the patronage of two noble houses, but appear almost adopted into their families in their decline of life. We trust, that the warmth of the genial halls of Fox and Manners, will revive the powers of these venerable bards, and that, like crickets on the hearth, they will again cheer us with their notes. We feel persuaded, that a hint from Lord Holland would induce Mr. Rogers to resume his Italian harp, and we are sure, that the expression of

a wish from the daughters of the Duchess of Rutland, would procure one or two further volumes from Mr. Crabbe.

Lord Holland, having been born in the year 1773, is now in the 55th year of his age, but has suffered so much from the gout, that he has the appearance of being much older. He has two sons—one of them Major Fox, lately married to Miss Fitzclarence, a daughter of the Duke. His Lordship has recently purchased an estate for this gentleman, and established him in one of his new-built houses at Kensington. He has another son much younger.

DR. BIRKBECK.

WHERE a professional man seeks to force his way without the aid of family connexions, and the possession of so much wealth, as may enable him to support an establishment, and make a due appearance in the eyes of men, there is still one, and, as experience proves, a sure mode, by which he may obtain his object. Let him render his talents known through the medium of the press. We live in a time in which all men read, and every man's merit may be known. Let any one visit the morning rooms of the most distinguished statesmen of the day, he will find the table covered

with the new publications daily issuing from the press, and he will see that many of them have not only been well read, but well *noted*. It is almost the characteristic of modern manners, in the condition of life of which we are speaking, that the new books of the day are as necessary to the breakfast table as the morning paper itself. It is incredible how much knowledge is thus easily and insensibly acquired, and how well and exactly the merit of all our popular writers is measured and known. If any one possesses the necessary talents and knowledge, let him avail himself of these means of becoming known, and he will not long labour in vain. Two things are, however, previously necessary; an exact and full knowledge of the subject chosen, and a good style of composition. The subject of this biographical article possesses them both, and his success in life is an undeniable proof of the justice of the remark, which our own observation enables us to make.

Like many other able men of the present day, Dr. Birkbeck comes from the North, that ever swarming hive of industry and talent. Every part of the united kingdom sends its peculiar contribution to the mother country. If Ireland sends us hay-makers, Scotland sends us industrious clerks and unwearied political economists. Dr. Birkbeck, however, is not so far North as Edinburgh, though, as in the case of Mr. Brougham, it is difficult not to imagine such a thorough-paced Scotch philosopher, to be any other than a Scotch-

man by birth. But Dr. Birkbeck is a native of Settle in Yorkshire, where his family resides, and in or near which, he received the rudiments of his education.

The family of the Birkbecks are Quakers, in which form of religion, and strict discipline, young Birkbeck was educated. His father was a banker, and his brother very lately, and, we believe, at the present day, still continues to carry on the paternal firm. We believe he was one of those, who, by a happy foresight, or, perhaps, by the narrow circle of his trade, avoided the effects of the resent revulsion, and still keeps his doors open, though Wentworth and Co. have gone. It is highly creditable to the religious discipline of the Quakers, that in such straits they are always ready to assist each other, and have such a full confidence in the honesty of a brother-quaker, that they willingly, and without any delay or formality of law, pour their purses into his store. In London we saw the effect of this admirable principle, and almost every town in England, where there was a Quaker establishment, followed the example.

Dr. Birkbeck received the first rudiments of education at Digglesworth School, and after having attained as much as a Yorkshire school can give in barbarous Latin, with a more creditable portion of arithmetic and algebra, he was sent to Edinburgh. Here he visited the hospitals, and attended the professors, and thus qualified himself

to become an adequate instructor to the respectable tradesmen and journeymen of London. There he took his degree, and having imbibed with it a hearty contempt for English Universities, in which nothing is taught but sound learning, profound mathematics, and the established religion of our fathers, he took his place by the coach, and came up to London to practise as a physician and philosopher.

London, for many years was ungrateful for this condescension of the young adventurer; its citizens were satisfied to go on as their fathers before them; and even in medicine, they preferred the established names of Drs. Warren, Reynolds and Vaughan, to that of Dr. Birkbeck. This incipient neglect was turned to good account by the happy industry of the Doctor. He was fortunate enough, as above stated, to possess a decided literary turn, and he lost not a moment to put his talents in exercise. There was a Review at that time in some repute amongst medical men, but certainly not conducted with the spirit, smartness, and real talent, which distinguishes the Medical Reviews of this day. Dr. Birkbeck applied to be admitted as a writer, and became, we believe, a kind of part, if not principal editor. He wrote some bold criticisms, in which he freely canvassed the practice and opinions of the leading physicians of the day, and measured and weighed out what he deemed the suitable reputation of each. He aimed his fiercest attacks at

those, whom he saw industriously seeking to make themselves known by some peculiarity in their practice, and lashed them without mercy. The public did not approve of this severity from one physician to another; the review soon sunk a victim to its own rigour, and Dr. Birkbeck learned, by his own experience, that people of breeding and condition in the Metropolis require good manners as well as good talents, as a passport to their favour.

In the more immediate duties of his profession, Dr. Birkbeck had more success, and he better deserved it. He was appointed physician to the Aldersgate Dispensary, and is said to have performed the duties with much attention and skill. At the same time, or successively, he became a member of several of the Medical Institutions of the Metropolis, and by his talent and activity, was daily rising into notice.

It was about this time that Mr. Brougham published his celebrated treatise upon the advantages of educating the people at large, and upon the facility with which it might be effected. According to this system, three things only are necessary to enable the general body of the people to become master of any science in particular, and of knowledge in general. The first, a certain portion of leisure time; the second, a proper direction and application of such leisure time to proper books; and the third, a ready access to those books. According to the advocates of this system, almost every

trade affords the necessary leisure, if, instead of employing it in the theatre, or the alehouse, it should be appropriated to the lecture room. A few professors, hired at cheap salaries, from the Universities of Scotland, would supply the second requisite, and direct the people to the choice of the proper books, and the mode of reading them. The third requisite, the books themselves, may as easily be afforded by a public subscription, from the funds of which proper authors and writers may be hired, and the necessary books published in a popular form and at a cheap price. Such is the system of general instruction, and it was no sooner proposed, than Dr. Birkbeck became its ready and zealous advocate. By his zeal and activity he originated the Mechanic's Institute, and followed it up by the publication of a periodical work for the use of its pupils.

This Institute has been followed by the London University, a collegiate institution, so far as respects the employment of professors and lecturers from a common fund, and the taking of pupils, who will voluntarily submit themselves to the rules of the society. The Legislature and Government of the country have hitherto refused their patronage of this body, and though its advocates are wealthy and powerful, they have hitherto solicited a charter of incorporation in vain. Under this state of things, as the University cannot confer degrees, or qualify any of its pupils for the law, the church, or medicine,—the old established literary

institutions of the country, those of Cambridge, Oxford, and Trinity College, Dublin, have not much to apprehend from such a rival.

It must be confessed, that the system promises very little success, as a fourth requisite is wanting, which the originators of the system have entirely forgotten,—the habit of study and mental application, or, in other words, the elemental preparation of the mind, by a long early course, both to apply and to conceive. By those accustomed to the labour of tuition, it is well known that the main use of a scholastic course in early life, is to form and discipline the mind to this *power* and habit of application, to enable it and to qualify it to think and to conceive, and thus to put men in a condition to avail themselves of the opportunities of mature life to instruct themselves. All this habit and this power must be utterly wanting to the body of mechanics. They can as little learn science as they could learn Greek in their mature life. It is idle to indulge either hopes or apprehensions upon this subject; so far as respects the scientific education of the working classes of the metropolis, and other large towns, nothing is to be expected; so far as regards the cheap education of the sons of tradesmen, it will certainly effect all that portion of mischief, which must result from education studiously, if not professedly, separated from the religious establishments of the country. It is one thing not to teach religion, and another, to pass it over with a well understood indifference, as if it were a thing totally unworthy of a

thought. And if religion, at least practical religion, be, from beginning to end, a system of self-denial, and of a constant check and control upon the strong passions and perverse affections of our nature, will it ever be acquired, unless taught and enforced by authority on the part of the master, and early and long continued habit on that of the pupil.

It is unnecessary to add, that Dr. Birkbeck is the promulgator of this system, and one of the founders, if not actually the originator, of the Institute and University, which are to reduce it into practice.

THE RIGHT HON. W. HUSKISSON.

THE rise of this gentleman affords another eminent example of the happy effects of our free Constitution, under which, public talents of any useful description are certain of making their way, and do not require the aid of family or fortune to advance their possessor to the first offices in the State. The late Mr. Canning used to lament bitterly, and feel most powerfully, the obstacles through which he had to fight; and having, upon some occasion to provide the Heralds with a motto for his arms, he expressed this feeling in the inscription which he desired to be chosen, "*Contra audentior ito,*" in other words, "be not daunted with difficulties, but let your courage rise with the ne-

cessity." Mr. Huskisson, with the same general talents as Mr. Canning, but with a very superior knowledge, has experienced the same difficulties: the narrow circumstances of his early life, and the total absence of all family connexions, have occasionally thrown him into situations in which he has needed all his courage and prudence to maintain what he has gained, and has been compelled to stand upon the defence, rather than push the assault. Finally, however, he has nearly triumphed over all his adversaries, subduing political enmity by his tried and acknowledged public merits, and shaming envy into acquiescence by his good temper and moderation. His prudence in this respect is an eminent example of what a former minister said of Scotchmen, "Refuse a Scotchman, and, instead of being offended, he will thank you, and will put you into so much good humour, that, when he asks a second or a third time, he is sure at length to procure what he requires. Refuse an Englishman, and he sulks, and you get rid of him for ever."

Of the father of Mr. Huskisson we only know that he was the brother-in-law of a physician of the name of Dr. Gerard, who, in Lord Levison Gower's embassy to France, about the year 1787, was physician to the ambassador. As the elder Mr. Huskisson was probably an apothecary, the young man was sent to Paris, to improve himself in the schools of that capital, and was there at the same time with his uncle Dr.

Gerard. By visiting his uncle, he fortunately came in contact with the ambassador, and was soon noticed as a sharp-witted and ready youth. Paris at that time was agitated by the commencement of the Revolution,—the citizens began to institute fraternal clubs, of which the young men availed themselves, as opportunities for speaking and debating. Mr. Huskisson, as an ardent, active youth, and perhaps being desirous to render himself a ready speaker in the French language, became one of the members of these institutions, and upon one or two occasions gave so much satisfaction, that he was honoured with the fraternal embrace, and distinguished with the privilege of "sitting in the first rank." We do not mention these early adventures with any purpose of depreciating him in his actual reputation,—we have no doubt that Mr. Huskisson himself often smiles at these follies of youth; and he has always shewed too good a judgment, and, we trust we may add, too good a heart, to be suspected for one moment of any sympathy with the atrocious demagogues of France. It would be unjust, indeed, to regard this portion of the conduct of Mr. Huskisson with any severity, as we remember the time when the first proceedings of the French National Assembly were hailed with the cordial approbation of the best men amongst us. The excesses of the jacobins and the philosophers have indeed disgusted all Europe with the very name of liberalists and constitutionalists; but it is the event only which

has instructed us; in the commencement no one anticipated such atrocious results.

As the visits of young Huskisson to his uncle rendered him better known to the ambassador and his family, they became more attached to him; and Lord Levison Gower, having occasion to come to England, took Mr. Huskisson with him. He procured him, we believe, at first, the situation of a clerk in the Treasury, and in a very short time directed the attention of Mr. Pitt to him, and pointed out his unusual knowledge and abilities. No one better understood the value of such talents, and sooner perceived them than Mr. Pitt, and his constant companion Mr. Dundas. Accordingly young Huskisson became quickly valued as he deserved, and was marked for promotion.

If Mr. Huskisson were not well acquainted with his own talents, and with his assiduous cultivation of them, we should presume that his astonishment must have been great, when, as a clerk of the Treasury, he received the first intimation, that it was Mr. Pitt's desire that he should come into Parliament, and, that as a vacancy existed for the borough of Morpeth, he would lose no time in repairing to that place. Mr. Huskisson complied with the intimation, and, about the year 1797, first entered Parliament as member for Morpeth.

From this period, till 1802, Mr. Huskisson advanced in the good graces of Mr. Pitt, as his talents and dexterity in business became more known. Amongst many other good qualities of

Mr. Pitt, there was no one more pleasing than the kindness which he readily contracted for those constantly in his presence, if they had any merit of any kind to justify it. In private life he had nothing of that reserve and hauteur about him, which seemed to characterize his manners in public. Though always grave, and almost always wrapped up in his own thoughts, he was in his feelings simple, frank, and disposed to kindness; neither seeking nor giving confidence, but never purposely withholding it; reserved, from habit, but not from design, and totally without any artifice in himself, or suspicion of it in others. He saw the talents of Mr. Huskisson from his first introduction into the Treasury—he did him justice, and put him into the situation for which he was adapted. Mr. Huskisson, upon his part, repaid the liberal patronage of Mr. Pitt; he became his friend as well as his adherent, and as zealously defended his reputation as his own.

When the state of the public mind required an interval of breathing time, and the ministry was compelled to make peace, Mr. Pitt, as is well known, contrived to pass the administration into the hands of Mr. Addington; and he succeeded so well in the management of this affair, that the King was accustomed to call Mr. Addington the minister of his own choice, as if the nomination had proceeded from his own mind; and Mr. Addington was led into the belief, that Mr. Pitt was really tired of public life, and would not only cor-

dially, but harmoniously support, the new administration. Mr. Huskisson did not share in this delusion,—he knew why Mr. Pitt desired, at that particular period, to lay aside, for awhile, the reins of government, that he might resume them without impairing his reputation. Accordingly, Mr. Huskisson became a strenuous opponent of such of the measures of Mr. Addington's administration, as really committed its character with the people. Amongst other measures, Mr. Addington, having made Mr. Law successively Attorney-General and Lord Chief Justice, concluded by bringing him into the cabinet, thus acting contrary to the fundamental principle in all free governments, that the executive and judicial administrations should always be kept distinct. Lord Ellenborough was in every respect a most able judge, and a man of great powers; and, if any exception could have been allowed, his talents and character would have justified it.—But the principle is too sound to admit of being safely violated. Accordingly, a very strong opposition was made to this measure by both parties, and Mr. Huskisson bore a prominent part in it.

When Mr. Pitt retired from the administration, that Mr. Addington might have the undivided merit of concluding the peace of Amiens, Mr. Huskisson, as his peculiar *protegé*, withdrew with him. Mr. Huskisson received a pension of £1200 per annum; the conditions of which, however, were, that it should be held only while

Mr. Huskisson was out of place, and should be suspended whilst he remained in possession of any office of the same, or greater amount. Half of the pension is settled upon his wife, in case of her survivorship. Though pensions of this description have been violently assailed by our popular writers, it cannot be denied, that the servants of the State ought to be as well remunerated, and placed in the same condition of life, which the talents and services of men of their class and education would have commanded in any of the professions. Now, it cannot be questioned, that talents, and industry, and ingenuity, like those of Mr. Huskisson, Mr. Sturges Bourne, and others, would have acquired an income, at least equal to this amount, as a barrister, a physician, or even a solicitor. The simple principle is this:—If such rewards were not proposed and given, such men would not come forward to the service of the State—society would thus suffer in its greatest interest. And the same argument applies to the reversion of half the pension to the wife and children. It is a part of the pay and provision for the services of the husband and father.

The consequence of Mr. Addington's administration to Mr. Huskisson was, that he lost his borough, and, in the general election of 1802, had to propose himself for Dover. The contest was sharp, and continued for five days, when Mr. Huskisson lost the election, having polled only 464 votes, while his two opponents, Mr. Trivannion and

Mr. Spencer Smith, had polled 666, and 534. On this Mr. Huskisson declined any further contest, and, agreeably to his usual courtesy and good sense, he took leave of the borough and his opponents, in a speech of such good nature and good feeling, as conciliated all parties. This, indeed, is a part of Mr. Huskisson's character and merit—good sense and good humour.

Upon this disappointment, Mr. Huskisson continued out of Parliament during the remaining part of Mr. Addington's ministry, but, upon the renewal of the war, and the return of Mr. Pitt, he was proposed for the borough of Liskard, which became vacant by the death of Lord Elliot. Here again he had to undergo a sharp contest, his opponent being Mr. T. Sheridan, the son of the member for Westminster. By some ma' 'gement, the under-sheriff of the county, being the returning officer, and in favour of Mr. T. Sheridan, contrived to make a double return, though Mr. Huskisson's majority was decided. Upon this, a petition was presented to the House of Commons by Mr. Huskisson, and, the matter being so plain, both the adverse parties were willing to agree to its decision upon the spot, but were hindered by the Attorney-General, who stated, that such a proceeding would be an express violation of the Grenville act. The matter, therefore, was deferred, and after the due interval, and the regular steps, decided in favour of Mr. Huskisson.

When the Whig ministry came into power, in the year 1806, Mr. Huskisson retired from office, and strenously opposed all the unconstitutional and violent measures which that party attempted to force upon the house and people by the strength of Government, united with their own influence. The people then saw what they had to expect from this stern and domineering aristocracy, when the possession of the power of the crown, being superadded to their own strength arising from family connexions and property, rendered them uncontrollable masters of the kingdom. Happily, their arrogant pretension of talents covered them with general ridicule, and when they attempted to force the conscience of the king, and undermine the church establishment, they united the great majority of the country against them, and their dismissal was still more popular than their appointment. Mr. Huskisson had the merit of fighting the battle of opposition with ability and vigour,—he exhibited the folly and ill consequences of their proposed measures, and vanquished the Scotch economists, and their feeble but haughty pupil, the Marquis of Lansdown, (then Lord H. Petty), with their own arms. He told them, that a large revenue could only be raised upon a flourishing commerce; and, that commerce could not flourish under high duties and intricate regulations, and still less so, where such duties, as in the case of pig-iron, were imposed

upon the raw materials of manufacture, and were attached to the article in its first state. Through every succeeding stage, the duty becomes aggravated by the profit of those who have to pay it, so that, by the time it reaches the consumer, an article so taxed will not have to pay one impost only, but perhaps two or three times the amount of the duty actually imposed.

The Private Brewery Tax was liable to the same objections, and, moreover, carried the excise into every man's dwelling. Under every former administration, a distinction had been carefully made and maintained between the houses of persons in trade, and of persons totally unconnected with all retail or wholesale dealing; and though the excise officers were allowed to enter the shops and warehouses, and even the houses of traders, the dwellings of private individuals were held exempt. But now, for the first time, every man's house, be his rank or occupation what it might, was opened to the visits of the government officer—every man's cellar was to be inspected, and every man's beer to be gauged. It is almost incredible, that even a whig ministry, however they might contemn all public opinion in their own imagined strength, could fall into a folly so extreme as was this measure, and thus give their political adversaries an advantage over them, the effect of which the Whig party has never recovered. Mr. Huskisson was exactly the man to open the eyes of the public, to the true nature of

the measures proposed by this party, and to their ignorance, in practice, of all that constituted national wealth, and of all that was necessary to the prosperity of trade and commerce. Mr. Huskisson did not spare the Whigs, and had therefore a very considerable share in their final overthrow.

In the several cabinets which have followed the dismissal of the Whigs, Mr. Huskisson has been almost always in office, and has uniformly supported the principles of Mr. Pitt. No man is supposed to have clearer views, upon all subjects connected with trade and finance,—as he not only understands the theory of political economy, but, what is much more valuable, knows, by actual experience, how far the principles of that theory become qualified, and newly modified by the actual business of life. He is not a mere theorist—not a mere Scotch economist, who, full of Adam Smith, and the Edinburgh Review, believes *cheap production* to be the great wheel of the world, and that nothing is to be sought but cheapness and the saving of labour. Mr. Huskisson, on the contrary, having seen men and manners on a wide theatre, and knowing the practical course of life and business, has not failed to observe, that what may be a very true principle in theory, becomes so totally changed by the unforeseen circumstances of nations, as no longer to remain a safe guide in practice.

But though Mr. Huskisson had hitherto been in many offices of the state, and had been a public

servant ever since his first return from Paris in 1792, he had not as yet been admitted into the cabinet. A report was current, that, in some former portion of his life, he had been concerned in stock-jobbing, and had either won or lost to a considerable extent in these transactions. Though we believe this report to have been utterly without foundation, inasmuch as the malice of party could never produce the charge in any distinct shape, it is certain that it afforded a pretext for excluding Mr. Huskisson from the privy council. The true cause of this exclusion, however, was, that the landed interest, and the high aristocratic families, entertained very strong apprehensions of the political power of a man, whom they suspected to be the advocate of the economists, and in no degree friendly to the protection of the landed interests. In the course of the French war, Mr. Windham, in a momentary fit of enthusiasm, had exclaimed, "Perish Commerce, live the Constitution," and upon several occasions had advanced and maintained the principle, that the courage, honour, and real wealth and worth of the country were to be sought amongst the country gentlemen, farmers, and peasantry; and that merchants, traders, and manufacturers, had, in fact, no country, and no attachments. This speech, and its terms, were remembered when the occasion upon which it was spoken was forgotten, and there arose two parties in the house,—the one, designating itself as the friend of the landed

interest—the other, as the advocate for trade and commerce. Mr. Huskisson came rather too prominently forward, as the protector of the merchants and traders, and hence excited a strong jealousy and apprehension amongst the other party. He has not overcome this feeling against him even in the present hour. At the time we are writing, there is a strong party among the nobility and gentry of the kingdom, who withhold their support from administration, upon no other ground than that Mr. Huskisson has been retained amongst the King's ministers.

When Mr. Canning's administration was formed, he found it necessary to have some powerful aid in the House of Commons, and he invited Mr. Huskisson to accept the Colonial Office, and a seat in the cabinet. Mr. Huskisson acceded to the proposal, and was accordingly appointed. In fact, the seat in the cabinet had long been an object of ambition to Mr. Huskisson, and he saw with pleasure a state of things which led to the accomplishment of his wishes.

Upon the death of Mr. Canning, a very strong party was again formed against Mr. Huskisson, and they prevailed so far, that the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer was offered to Mr. Herries. This gentleman accepted the office, and having been well exercised in the nature and daily practice of finance under Lord Bexley, he had prepared, what is technically called, a budget, suitable to the difficulties of the times. In the exe-

cution of this duty, Mr. Herries had not deemed it necessary to submit every article to Mr. Huskisson, to whose office the details of finance in no degree belonged. Mr. Huskisson took offence, and it became very generally understood, that he would not act under Mr. Herries as Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr. Huskisson, however, had too much official caution, and personal prudence, to act with that precipitancy which he knew had offended the King in other persons, and upon other occasions,—it was sufficiently understood by his colleagues that he would not act with Mr. Herries, but he remained at his post. The Duke of Wellington found him in this situation, when he was commanded by his Majesty to form a ministry.

It is now sufficiently understood, that Mr. Peel, acting under the same general prudence as Mr. Canning, made it a kind of condition with the Duke of Wellington, that Mr. Huskisson should be invited to remain, and that Mr. Herries should admit of some compromise. At the time we are writing, the matter is still undecided, but it is very generally supposed, that Mr. Huskisson will endeavour to retain his office, in despite of the powerful coalition of noble families against him.

Mr. Huskisson is now about 57 years of age, and, like most of those who have spent the greater portion of their youth and mature age in the late debates in the House of Commons, is much worn,

and exhausted in strength and constitution. Perhaps, he would act with more prudence, if he should at once decline the contest to which his strength and spirits are no longer equal.

DR. JAMES,

BISHOP OF CALCUTTA.

THE lives of the greatest portion of our divines may fairly be introduced with the trite remark, that except to those who delight in tracing the progress of assiduous study, and well directed industry, they can furnish little to interest or attract. The memoirs of the hero and politician are read in the history of their country; the life of the scholar and the divine must be sought for, principally in that of his studies, and of the public situations to which they have advanced him. In no country in the world but in our own, are the rewards of learning so open to those who excel. If many of our home-offices are set apart for the sons and brothers of our nobility and powerful families, every day almost casts up some office or situation, which can only be filled by those who have qualified themselves for its duties. Let no man, therefore, despair. Let him qualify himself by a laborious course of study, to take his place

amongst the foremost, and the time may arrive when his service may be required.

The worthy divine, Dr. James, at present under our consideration, was born, we believe, at Rugby in Warwickshire, about the year 1786; his family, however, is of Huntingdonshire, where his ancestors, though not remarkably opulent, have long possessed stations of much respectability. The Bishop's father, indeed, may be said to be the first of the family who became a kind of public character, and who, as such, calls for the notice of the biographer. And as the Bishop is more known on account of his father than of himself, we shall dwell the more fully upon the life of this gentleman.

Dr. James, the father, was distinguished in very early life for a love of reading, and a strong propensity to study, which induced his family to send him to Eton, when he was not more than nine years old. He had not been there long before the quickness of his parts became conspicuous, while his diligence and amiable disposition recommended him strongly to his instructors. In due time he was elected upon the foundation, and became one of the brightest ornaments of that distinguished seminary. His remarkable skill in Latin and Greek versification, will ever be remembered by those who were his contemporaries at school, and of his ingenuity in that art the public have some very masterly specimens, in the elegant selection of Latin and Greek verses, called the "Musæ Etonenses."

Having thus obtained for himself no small credit, he was elected a scholar of King's College, Cambridge, to which place he removed in 1756; and though he was now in a manner provided for, having the certain prospect of a fellowship, he did not remit any of his wonted diligence in the pursuit of literary knowledge; for to his former accurate acquaintance with the classics, he now added, if not a profound, at least a very comprehensive and creditable knowledge of mathematics, which is not frequently the case with the students of King's, it being left entirely to their own choice, as by their charter they claim the peculiar prerogative of exemption from all the University examinations in proceeding to their degrees.

In the third year after his election to the scholarship, Mr. James was chosen fellow, and proceeded regularly to his degrees of B. A. and M. A. It is not certain how soon he was engaged in private tuition, but some time elapsed before he became one of the public tutors of the college, an office which he held for several years, during which time he established his reputation as a scholar, and gave universal satisfaction.

His long residence in the University had given a deeply rooted attachment to a college life, but the air and situation of Cambridge were not at all congenial to his health. In the year 1776, therefore, Dr. Burrough having resigned the head-mastership of Rugby school, Mr. James's friends unanimously advised him to offer himself a candi-

date for it at the election, which he accordingly did, and, though not without opposition, succeeded in obtaining it.

When Dr. James came to Rugby, he found the school consisting of little more than an hundred boys, chiefly owing to the remissness of the former head-master. Immediately, therefore, he began a reform in the discipline and system of teaching hitherto adopted in the school; and instead of the antiquated plan of education which then prevailed, he presently introduced the modern Etonian method. His exertions were soon crowned with the desired success; the fame of the new teacher was spread throughout the neighbouring counties, and pupils crowded from all parts for the benefit of his instruction.

From this time it may be said to have been one of our public seminaries, being inferior neither in point of discipline, mode of education, nor masters, to the first in the kingdom. In its most flourishing state under Dr. James, it consisted of three hundred boys; and it was his chief aim to reduce the expenses as much as possible, in order that parents might be induced to send their children to it in preference to other public schools, some of which are attended with the most extravagant charges. In this respect he completely gained his point, and during his long residence there, which was more than sixteen years, sent several hundred young men to the universities,

some of whom proved eminent scholars, and brought a lasting credit to the establishment.

In a few years after his first settlement at Rugby, he paid his addresses to, and afterwards married Miss Elizabeth Landor, of Coventry, a lady of many accomplishments, and to whom he had a most sincere and firm attachment, but who was unhappily taken from him by a rapid illness three or four years after their marriage. Upon a small marble monument, which he erected to her memory in Rugby church, is inscribed a comprehensive Greek line by way of epitaph, at once expressive of his tender affection for her, and the well-grounded hope which he entertained of a blessed re-union in a better world.

By this lady he had two children, a son and a daughter, the former of whom has been brought up to the law, and promises fair to be eminent in his profession; the latter was married in 1803, to the Rev. Dr. Wingfield, late head-master of Westminster school, and now prebendary of Worcester

Dr. James was for a considerable period nearly inconsolable for the death of his wife, frequently visiting her grave and weeping over it. But time, in some degree, healed the deep wound which so great a loss had made; and the Doctor, in the course of two years afterwards, began to form a connexion with Miss Caldecott of Rugby, which also terminated in matrimony. By his second

wife he has had either six or seven children, one of whom is now the Bishop of Calcutta.

About the year 1791, Dr. James's health began to be impaired, by his unremitted study and the great attention which he had paid to the minutest affairs of the establishment under his care. Several of his friends, therefore, advised him to resign; but his natural activity of mind was agreeably exerted in scholastic employments, and he did not comply with their injunctions so soon as in prudence, perhaps, he ought to have done. However, during the two following years, his health had suffered so much in consequence of his extraordinary exertions, that the trustees of the school themselves requested him to give up the place, assuring him at the same time of their readiness to do for him whatever might be in their power. Accordingly, in 1793, the Doctor resigned the mastership, though not without some reluctance; and was succeeded by Dr. Ingles, a gentleman whose abilities and learning were such as well adapted him for the situation.

Upon Dr. James's resignation, the trustees at their next meeting wrote jointly to the minister, informing him of the long and great services of the Doctor, and requesting he might have such preferment given him as might be thought adequate to his deserts; and in consequence of that application, he was shortly afterwards appointed to a stall in Worcester Cathedral.

Dr. James gave up so much of his time to the

concerns of the school, that he never was able to appear before the world in any literary work of much consequence. He published, however, a small compendium of geography, which is one of the most comprehensive and accurate performances of the kind, and is used chiefly at Rugby school. He is likewise the author of a solution of the propositions of the fifth book of Euclid by algebra, which renders that difficult book comparatively easy; and also of two Sermons, published in 1799, one of which was preached at the musical meeting of the three choirs of Worcester, Hereford, and Gloucester, in the Cathedral of Worcester, and the other upon a public fast-day; the former of these, the learned Dr. Hurd, late Bishop of Worcester, said was "ingenious and eloquent; the latter, pious and animated."

Dr. James, the younger, the present Bishop of Calcutta, is the son of this gentleman by his second wife, Miss Caldecott, of Rugby. He was educated under his father at Rugby, which, though not a royal foundation, has produced several distinguished scholars, and sent forth many able men both into the church and state. The late General Abercrombie, received the whole of his education in that school, and ever afterwards retained such a grateful affection for the place, that, in one of his latest letters, whilst abroad, he expressed his intention of visiting it, in case he had lived to return to his native country. Being educated in this school under his father, it is no great sub-

ject of surprise that Dr. James became an excellent scholar, and that, when he entered the University, he was second to very few of those whom he found there.

From Rugby, Mr. James was removed to Christ Church, which, at that period, was flourishing beyond all previous example in eminent scholars, and possessed on its boards several men, who were afterwards leading characters in church and state. Mr. James here became acquainted with the greatest portion of these gentlemen, and he doubtless owes his present appointment to the connexions which he then formed.

Upon the death of Dr. Heber, Mr. James, having been already some years in orders, and having become known to Mr. Wynn, the President of the Board of Control, was deemed to be a proper man to succeed him—and was accordingly appointed. As far as scholarship is concerned, we believe the appointment has given general satisfaction; and we trust, that other more material qualities are in no degree wanting. We do not make this remark with the purpose of intimating any doubt upon the subject,—the fact is, that we are anxious that Heber should be succeeded by some one who will apply himself earnestly to labour in the vineyard. There is much to be done in India; and it can only be accomplished by the union of great zeal with great ability. The ability we know Dr. James to possess; and we most earnestly trust that he will not be wanting in the zeal.

The Bishop is about 40; young and florid in his appearance, and in a state of health which promises long life, even in the sultry region of India.

THE RIGHT HON.

W. STURGES BOURNE.

IN considering the origin of the greater portion of our public characters, it appears to be a subject worthy of some remark, that almost all of them originate from the three learned professions,—most of them being the sons of clergymen, barristers, or physicians. The church has in all times made a liberal contribution to the state; and when a successful advocate has attained the summit of his own personal ambition, he usually brings up his children to the same fortunate profession. Hence, the ranks of our present nobility are abundantly filled with the descendants of clergymen, or with the sons of barristers. We have before had occasion to mention, that, of the Norman nobility, brought over by the Conqueror, not one noble family now remains,—not one descendant of the barons who signed Magna Charta,—not one family, which in its male line can ascend beyond the reign of Henry VII. All the nobility of the present day are

of the genuine English stock, and have almost all risen from the success of their ancestors in their professions. This is equally true of all those who now bear the high offices under Government. They owe their present station to their exemplary and respectable regularity during their probation in the minor offices of Government. The subject of the present memoir is a conspicuous instance of this observation.

William Sturges Bourne is the son of a clergyman, the Rev. Dr. Sturges, formerly Prebendary of Winchester, and Chancellor of the Diocese, and rector of Alvestock, near Portsmouth. He was born about the year 1770, and, about 1784, was sent to Winchester school, where he was educated, we believe, under Dr. Huntingford. Here he became such a scholar as Winchester has frequently the honour of sending forth,—that is, an excellent classic, with a taste well formed, and good habits of application. He derived, however, something still better from his education at Winchester,—an attachment to the constitution in Church and State, and a resolute determination *Spartam quam nactus est ornare,* instead of pulling down the old mansion, and building up some lath and plaster fabric, more suited to the taste of the day. Like Lord Sidmouth, and others of Dr. Huntingford's scholars, Mr. Sturges Bourne has an ardent love for the establishments of the country; and we will take upon us to say, that his name will never be

found amongst those, who assail these institutions to which we owe all the sound and exact learning of the country.

We are not acquainted with the internal arrangement of Winchester School, but, we believe, that after the boys have passed six or seven years within its walls, and have ascended from the lowest to the highest class, they are entitled to scholarships at New College, Oxford, and afterwards succeed to fellowships, and thence to rectories or vicarages, of which there are many belonging to this foundation. Dr. Sturges, we believe, enjoyed one of these; Dr. Wool, the late head-master of Rugby, had another, and Dr. Goodenough, of Bristol, a third;—some of these livings are of very large amount, and are in themselves noble provisions. Under such circumstances it may appear a subject of some surprise, that Mr. Sturges (Mr. Sturges Bourne's original name) should not have chosen the church, where his success would have been certain. Mr. Sturges, however, very early decided in favor of the bar, and his father was induced to sanction his choice.

Perhaps, the possession of some borough interest by his father and family, might have opened a distant prospect of some courtly patron, and it therefore became a matter of prudence to make choice of a line of life, in which such patronage might become most available. Mr. Rose, another Hampshireman, was, at this period, the great mo-

del of all the young aspirants of the day:—they saw in him a fortunate and dauntless adventurer, who, from the humble condition of a purser in the navy, had become a privy counsellor, and almost sinking under the weight of places accumulated upon him, as the reward of his useful talents. Let not this observation, however, be deemed invidious. In a worldly point of view, very few persons have better deserved their good fortune, and their long prosperity, than Mr. Rose. He appears certainly to have adhered to a class of rather coarse and common maxims,—such as, that it was every man's duty to take care of himself in the first case, and that, as far as he had observed in the experience of his own life, it was every man's practice,—that he (Mr. Rose) had earned his money and his places, and he would keep them, &c. —But, with all these worldly maxims, and with an imprudent conduct in avowing them, Mr. Rose was himself a man of much benevolence, and conscientiously, we believe, employed a great portion of his time in ameliorating the condition of "the poor," and in patronising all modes which promised their improvement. The "Savings Bank" system was brought into its present practical shape, under the superintendance of Mr. Rose. The same may be said of the "Friendly Societies."

Having completed his education at Winchester, Mr. Sturges was removed to Christ Church, where he was contemporary with Mr. Robert Ward, the author of "Tremaine," and one of his associates

in office and in the favour of Mr. Pitt in after life. It is curious, indeed, to observe, how many gentlemen, now in power, were at this period fellow collegians, and partaking of the instructions of the same University. Mr. Huskisson is almost the only man in the present ministry who was not of Oxford or Cambridge; and he was, in fact, utterly unknown, till Lord Levison Gower found him walking the hospitals in Paris. On the other hand, Mr. Sturges was a scholar from his early youth, and like Mr. Ward, Lord Bathurst, and Lord Lyndhurst, went through the regular collegiate course, which is best adapted to form men for public office in England. We live in times in which men, not educated in these institutions, and, from a very obvious feeling, not friendly to their reputation, are making a general assault upon these ancient establishments of the country, and are attacking them at once by the open violence of abuse, and by secret sapping and mining in encouraging rival foundations. We cannot say, that we entertain much apprehension of such an institution as the proposed London University, except in so far as it may unsettle the minds of the clerks and unemployed youth of the metropolis, and may teach them to talk, to doubt, and to dispute upon the welfare of society; while the manifest duties of their own condition in life require them to be submissive, respectful, and obedient. Under such circumstances it becomes, we think, the

obvious interest and duty of the higher orders to rally around the old institutions of the country, and to remember that they hold their estates as well as their rank under the effect and sanction of these establishments; and that the monarchy, the church, and the security of property, must all stand or fall together. In one word, we are much of the opinion of Captain Plume in the play upon this subject, and as it was one of the rules of the Captain to have no one in his regiment who should be able to draw up a petition, it should be a rule with us (if we had the good fortune to belong to these orders), to hold it as a fundamental objection to the character of a butler or footman, that he was a student in the London University, and was about to take his degree.

Whilst Mr. Sturges was at Oxford, it is probable that he first became acquainted with Mr. Page Bourne, to whose name and fortune he afterwards succeeded. Mr. Page was at this time member for Oxford. In after life, by his will, he directed Mr. Sturges to take his name, and accompanied the direction with the usual bequest of a fortune.

Upon leaving the University, Mr. Sturges entered himself in one of the Inns of Court, and went through the usual course of reading and special pleading. Having been called to the bar, he took chambers in Paper Buildings, and practised in the Court of Chancery. Mr. Pitt and Lord Sidmouth had followed the same course; and Mr.

Rose relates, that Mr. Pitt always had a high notion of his certain success at the bar, and that once in particular he was so wearied with politics, and disgusted with the state of difficulty and embarrassment in which he found himself, that he was about to resign his office as Premier, and return to the bar. The fact is so singular, that we shall give it as nearly as possible, not only on the authority of Mr. Rose, but in his words:—

"They know very little of the character of Mr. Pitt, who accuse him of a moment's thought for the pecuniary remuneration of his office. In the year 1787, when Mr. Pitt was premier, he was so heavily in debt, as to become personally annoyed by the demands of his creditors. He was extremely uneasy under these circumstances, and told me, that he had resolved to give up politics and place entirely, and retire into private life, and live upon his profession as a barrister. His situation became known, and an occurrence then took place, which reflects no less honour upon the persons concerned, than upon Mr. Pitt, as being the object of such a noble act. A gentleman waited upon Mr. Pitt, and informed him that he was commissioned to offer him the sum of £50,000; which had been raised by subscription of twelve gentlemen, each of whom had bound himself never to make known his own name, except to one who was trusted by all. I am that one, Sir, who, by the necessity of the case, have been trusted to receive and offer the amount, and I am bound by the most power-

ful injunction not to mention the name of any one of the subscribers." It is scarcely necessary to observe, that, however gratified Mr. Pitt was by this offer, he declined it, and had recourse to other aid (we should think that of Mr. Rose himself) to satisfy his creditors.

It is said, that Mr. Sturges Bourne had very good success in his practice at the bar, and it is some proof of the truth of the assertion, that he retained his chambers in Paper Buildings for many years after he embraced public life, and even after he became one of the Secretaries of the Treasury. Like Mr. Pitt, he had a strong sense of the uncertainty of politics, and of the value of independence, and he accordingly appears not to have relinquished the bar, nor to have given up his chambers in the Temple, till, having served the requisite number of years in the Treasury, he became entitled to the usual retiring pension of £1200 *per annum*, for himself, and £600 *per annum*, for his wife, in case of her surviving him. We have before said, that it is no less honourable to the character of our Government, than it is incumbent upon the State, as a matter of good policy, to allow these retiring pensions; for who, upon any other terms, would serve the most uncertain and least grateful of all masters, the people in a popular Government?

Mr. Sturges Bourne first came into Parliament for Christ Church, about 1796,—not at the general election in that year, but a short time afterwards. He entered the house, however, just previous

to an event of great interest, and which, perhaps, brought the country into more extreme danger than any other political occurrence, (the mutiny at the Nore only excepted), during the last fifty years. This was the suspension of Bank Payments, rendered necessary by the state of foreign exchanges, and by the enormous call of cash and bullion from England for the Continent. It is now very generally admitted, that Mr. Pitt's courage and conduct at that period saved the country from the confusion of a general bankruptcy, if not from the horrors of a revolution, which would have followed upon that event. The country, indeed, ought never to forget two services rendered by Mr. Pitt and Mr. Vansittart, now Lord Bexley. If Mr. Pitt had not acted as he resolutely determined to do, at the time of the Bank difficulties, there would unquestionably have been first, a general breaking up of the property of the country, and secondly, a revolution. In the same manner, if Mr. Vansittart had not manfully, and almost singly, opposed, the resolutions of Mr. Horner and the Whig party, that the Bank of England note had become depreciated, and that one pound in paper was no longer an equal representative of one pound in cash, there would have been a total destruction of the credit of the Bank of England, and such an instant and actual depreciation of their vast amount of paper in circulation, as must have led to a like general ruin and disorder. Thousands of families would have been the imme-

diate sacrifice. It is impossible, upon a calm consideration, not to shudder at the mischief which we have escaped.

Mr. Sturges Bourne continued to take part with Mr. Pitt in all the active proceedings of that period, and by his ready performance of his own duties, and by his zealous attachment and adherence to the ministers, is doubtless entitled to much praise for his services. It is no inconsiderable proof, indeed, of the general merit of Mr. Pitt, that no man was more beloved by those who came into contact with him, and no man was better and more faithfully served. The cause was, that Mr. Pitt was himself a direct, sincere, and honourable man, and the least selfish of any who have ever risen to so high a station. It was impossible to have had any knowledge of him, without being struck with this feature in his character, his steady and conscientious discharge of his public duties, and his extraordinary personal simplicity in private life.

When Mr. Addington became minister, Mr. Sturges Bourne, of course, lost his appointments under Mr. Pitt, and, with the other personal friends of that statesman, remained awaiting the time when he should be pleased to resume office. This time at length arrived, and as Mr. Addington and his colleagues were not altogether willing to resign, there arose something like an opposition between the friends of Mr. Pitt and the friends of Mr. Addington. The nation very generally took the part

of Mr. Pitt; a new war having arisen, and no doubt existing between the comparative abilities of the two men, to find the resources for conducting it with vigour and success.—Mr. Addington accordingly retired, and Mr. Pitt resumed the office of Premier. Upon his patron's return to power Mr. Sturges Bourne was nominated one of the Secretaries of the Treasury.

Another change, however, very soon followed, and Mr. Sturges Bourne had scarcely matured his plans for a skilful and vigorous discharge of his duties as a secretary, when some unhappy divisions again dissolved the cabinet. The Whig ministry then came into power, and Mr. Sturges Bourne was again put out of office.

In 1807, the King and the country having been happily released from this stern and domineering aristocratic party, Mr. Sturges Bourne returned into office, though not into his former place. He was appointed one of the Commissioners of the Treasury, and became as active a servant under Mr. Percival as he had been under Mr. Pitt.

The remaining portion of his political course has been only from one place to another, till in the administration of Mr. Canning, he was appointed to the high office which he has since resigned.

SIR EGERTON BRYDGES, BART.

OF LEE PRIORY, KENT.

THERE are but two kinds of characters upon which the biographer can dwell with any pleasure —those who are acting a conspicuous part on the stage of public life, and those whom their assiduous industry, or some eminent personal merit, has raised from the comparative obscurity of private life into rank and consideration. Persons of merely high rank resemble the actors who play the kings, and queens, and nobles in a dramatic performance, they excite no interest, unless their part has something to recommend it beyond its mere name of dignity. But those who have advanced themselves to rank and station by their own industry and abilities, become objects of interest, because they have rendered themselves objects of utility. Every one of us, in the younger portion of our life, is entering upon the same course, every one of us is travelling the same general road of fortune and preferment, and has therefore a natural curiosity to learn the adventures of those who have preceded him. Sir Egerton Brydges may be regarded as one of these characters. He is certainly of a respectable family, and in his remote connexions is well allied. But he would never have attained the rank he now

holds, had not his personal industry raised him powerful friends, and had he not possessed the prudence and good sense to improve the opportunities as they arose. So true is the observation of the poet, that every man has more than one such occasion in the course of his life, and that his success depends upon the due improvement of it.

It is, indeed, incredible, except by those who have lived long, and seen much, how many men have been raised from the most humble station to the highest condition by one of those incidents which, in popular language, are called casts of fortune. The writer of this memoir remembers hearing his father relate, that the late Dr. Moore, Archbishop of Canterbury, owed his elevation in life to one of these occurrences. The Duke of Marlborough one day called upon the head of a college in Oxford, to consult him with respect to the selection of a tutor for his son,—the head of the college was in doubt who to recommend, when Dr. Moore, at that time an awkward unpolished bachelor, happened to pass the window. There goes a man, replied the head, who will suit your Grace, if you require merely honesty and a sufficiency of acquirements. He is a grave, quiet, and solid character, and is not deficient in all such knowledge as we profess to teach. The Duke took Mr. Moore upon this recommendation, and when a future incident in the family gave a noble proof of the honour and honesty of the tutor, he exerted himself to effect his advancement in life.

Sir Egerton Brydges, the subject of this memoir, is the younger son of a gentleman, and, as we have above stated, is connected with an ancient family. He was born in the year 1762, and from his childhood appears to have been very strongly marked with that character and temperament which belong to the poet and man of genius. His early life was passed in the quiet and privacy of a country mansion, amid the wild scenery of a remote county, under the shade of wide-spreading groves, and amongst hills, valleys, and woodlands. It was these circumstances of his childhood and youth which gave the first and predominant colour to his mind, and fixed his greatest delight in rural imagery, in descriptions of solitude, and in the enjoyment of lonely contemplation. It is impossible not to envy a mind thus trained amidst the charms of natural and romantic scenery, and more particularly when nature has given that sensibility of imagination, which immediately seizes upon such images as its proper nourishment, and, impressing the beautiful pictures upon the mind and memory, lays up a store upon which fancy can work at her leisure.

Life, however, is not given to be dreamed away, and though children, and young men and women, born and educated in the country, and amidst the ease and leisure of opulence, may be inclined to be poets, this is seldom the case with fathers and mothers; they have generally lived long enough to sink into the prose of common life, and

to seek and require something more substantial than the laurel of the muse. And so young Egerton found it:—At a proper age, and whilst he had scarcely finished his first or second tragic composition, in five or six acts, he was sent to a public school, where, instead of writing English heroics about Dido and Eneas, and Hector and Andromache, he had to commence the labour of his Latin Grammar. Nine tedious years had he to remain with an unpoetical and ordinary school-master, who wholly disregarded his lyric and tragic compositions, and flogged him without mercy when he failed in the common tasks of the school. All this young Brydges took in sad dudgeon, but, like other youthful heroes, he was obliged to submit; and, like other young men, was, in after life, much the better for the severe discipline of his school. Perhaps no man suffered more at school than the present Duke of Wellington. Buonaparte himself, had he been his school-master, could not have treated him with more austerity.

From this school, in October, 1780, Mr. Egerton Brydges was removed to Queen's College, Cambridge, with the character of a good classical scholar, who excelled in the composition of Latin, as well as English poetry. But the habits of a Cantab were not congenial to the turn of his mind and his attainments: exclusive attention was given, and exclusive honours were awarded, to mathematics. At this time Dr. Isaac Milner, whose pre-eminence in this science is well known, was one of the

tutors; but unfortunately it fell to his lot to give lectures, not on the subjects in which he so much excelled, but in the classics, for which neither his early education, nor the frame of his mind had fitted him.

These circumstances generated a disgust in the mind of Mr. Brydges, which, during the time he remained at the university, he never conquered. The consequence was a total neglect, not of mathematics, but even of those acquirements in classical literature, relative to which a little attention would have conducted him to celebrity. But as nothing could suppress his avidity for reading, he gave himself up to all the luxurious idleness of the modern *belles-lettres:* he lounged over Spenser, and Shakespeare, and Milton; he indulged in every wild romance or affecting novel which he could obtain, and he pored over biography and history with a careless and undirected curiosity. These occupations, together with his shyness and apparent reserve, were but little calculated to acquire for him a large acquaintance; he passed his time, therefore, scarcely noticed, except by a few select friends, who, in the zeal of their attachment, made him ample amends for any general neglect.

The profession for which he was intended had been fixed from an early period, partly perhaps by the accident of his descent. He had been taught to look up to his ancestor Lord Chancellor Eles-

mere, until he was destined to a line in which equal honours would be open to himself. In the summer of 1782, therefore, he was entered of the Middle Temple, and in the commencement of the following year left college, of which he had grown heartily tired, and became a resident member of this honourable society. But the habits he brought with him, and the course of reading he had pursued, were of all others the most hostile to those of the profession in which he was now about to engage. The coarse jargon, in which this science (if science it can be called) is clothed, the very manners and customs of its professors, were utterly abhorrent to his taste: it could scarcely be expected of him to go and write like a clerk at the desk of a special pleader: if he went into the courts, he could neither understand their arguments, nor even comprehend their terms; and a practical knowledge of the law has seldom, it is presumed, been obtained from solitary study even by the few who have had the patience to persevere in it. Here, therefore, he just kept his terms, with a sullen inattention to his neighbours, spending the greater part of the day among his relations in the western part of the town, and escaping as soon as possible back into the country to the house of his mother, (his father having died in 1780), where he gave himself up to congenial studies.

But idle as he was, and chilled by the want of those academical distinctions which his boyish

hopes had flattered him would be open to the acquisitions he should bring with him from school, he did not entirely neglect poetical composition.

In 1782, and the two following years, he wrote several sonnets, and other small poems, which he ventured to publish in the spring of 1785, soon after he had completed his twenty-second year; but without a name, which, however, was added immediately afterwards, in consequence of the encouragement of his friends. This publication, although it did not consist of the most popular species of poetry, being formed on the model of the school of Spenser and Milton, rather than of Dryden and Pope, whose sparkling and harmonious couplets of ethical remarks are always more pleasing to the generality of readers than picturesque description, and simple and unadorned sentiments, yet obtained considerable applause. It was highly spoken of in Maty's Review, which made the author ample amends for the coldness and indifference with which it was treated by one or two of the other journalists, whose taste in poetry was not of the purest kind. Yet it must be admitted, that, whether it arose from the difficult structure of the sonnet, or from the models which the author followed, there is a stiffness in many of these productions, from which his subsequent poems are completely free. A few, indeed, of these early pieces have been pronounced to be remarkable for their ease, simplicity, and pathos.

The very great inundation of sonnets which

within these few years has issued from the British press, has brought this species of composition into some degree of disesteem. But at the time of Mr. Brydges' publication, very few poems of this kind had appeared for nearly two centuries. In the reign of Q. Elizabeth, and James I. Sydney, Spenser, Shakespeare, Daniell, Drayton, Drummond, and others, had filled their pages with them; but, from the days of Milton, they had gone out of fashion, and, with the exception of those by Edwards and Daniel Wray, which are to be found in Dodsley's collection, none were offered to the world, till the beautiful set by T. Warton appeared in the edition of his poems, which was published about 1777.

In the course of the following year, Mr. John Bamfylde brought forth, at Cambridge, in a small 4to. pamphlet, "Sixteen Sonnets," in which there is much simple dignity, and pure and virtuous sentiment. In 1784, Mrs. Charlotte Smith produced the first edition of her enchanting poems, which she entitled "Elegiac Sonnets," and which, if in their structure they are not legitimate sonnets, are certainly something better; which have never yet been equalled in simplicity, pathos, and picturesque fancy, and which it is probable never will. The sonnets of Mr. Brydges, which were published a few months after Mrs. Smith's, were formed on a very different (we do not say a more excellent) model from hers: they came from one whose mind and whose ear were habituated to

the imagery, the sentiments, the expressions and rhythm of Milton and Warton. At this time the compositions of this kind by Mr. Bowles, Miss Seward, and their numerous successors, had not appeared; and Mr. Brydges, therefore, must not be confounded with the "imitatorum servile pecus," of whom such a disgusting profusion is now every where to be met with.

It is believed that Sir Egerton's sonnets have been by no means so popular as those of several of his contemporaries. We do not undertake to prove the injustice of this fate; nor shall we assert that they have more merit than those which have been more successful. By some they have been deemed uncommon efforts of early genius; by others they have been considered as the productions rather of a cultivated mind and feeling heart than of an original fancy and bold invention. Posterity, if they ever reach posterity, will decide impartially.

Soon after this publication, (which, although it met with many praises from individuals, by no means attracted that general notice which is alone calculated to satisfy the warmth of youthful expectations), the author married Miss Barrett, of Lee, near Canterbury, whose reversionary fortune, certain but contingent, was very considerable; and retired to a small house which he rented in Hampshire. In this seclusion he buried, for nearly three years, all the ardour of literary or worldly ambition, till, at the close of 1787, he became entitled

to be called to the bar,—a privilege which he embraced; and soon afterwards bought a house in one of the new streets near Bedford-square, where he principally resided for the four years which followed. He occasionally put on his gown and wig, and attended Westminster-hall; but made no progress in his profession, which he utterly abhorred, and for which, therefore, he did not attempt to qualify himself. He felt, however, a certain uneasiness at thus neglecting the path designed for him, which prevented his steadily addicting himself to any other studies.

At this time he gained admission to the British Museum, and the stores of antiquities, topography, and genealogy, which that national repository opened to him, and which were in exact coincidence with some of his earliest propensities, seized upon his whole attention. He entered upon those pursuits with an avidity and enthusiasm congenial to his temper, and became versed in the local history of England, together with its pedigrees and heraldry, to a degree, which was alike the astonishment and lamentation of his friends. They regretted most keenly this waste of abilities which they deemed well fitted for higher occupations.

They could not bear to observe such a memory burdened with all the insipid and contemptible pedantries of heraldic jargon, and all the minute uninteresting details of a thousand obscure families, whose very names had been deservedly buried

in the grave with them. It associated him with men widely his inferiors in talents and acquirements; it overlaid and almost extinguished the mighty flame of the muse with musty parchments, endless volumes of stupid collectors, broken tombstones, and illiterate, insipid, or lying epitaphs. Discouragement and remonstrance on the part of his friends appeared only to stimulate Sir Egerton's ardour in the pursuit of his favourite study; he justified himself by the example of the celebrated T. Warton.

In this state of mind Sir Egerton brought forward, in conjunction with a friend, Mr. Shaw, the historian of Staffordshire, his contemporary at college, since dead, a periodical work on antiquities, in which much of the trash he had collected with so much ardour was discharged. What he furnished himself to this publication, was at least as accurate and interesting as the subject would admit; but he wanted the perseverance and the regularity necessary to conduct a work of this nature with equality and success: he was often absent; often otherwise engaged; and at those periods the work was filled with too much careless or useless matter; while his friend and coadjutor wanted the powers of selection and exactness, and was at that time less acquainted with such subjects than he afterwards proved himself to be, by a most valuable, laborious, and extensive work of his own, and was also too fond of flourishes in description, which were not the most pure and classical. In a subse-

quent publication of the same nature, intitled "Topographical Miscellanies," and of which Sir Egerton had the sole conduct, his friend being then tired of the expence, he attended more to the composition and selection of his materials; this last performance gained the strong approbation, as we have heard, of the late Lord Orford.

But this fever, which others could not control, had now nearly expired by its own fury. At this time the taunt of a classical friend, who reproached him for burying the early powers of elegant composition which he had formerly displayed under the weight of antiquarian lumber, till he had almost caught the crabbed style and unscholarlike language of the black-letter books, with which he had been lately so inordinately conversant, almost completed his cure. To shew that his fancy was not yet entirely dead; that he was still capable of efforts more congenial to his boyish ambition; and that the powers of expression had not absolutely forsaken him, he seized the pen and wrote the first sheets or two of the little novel of "Mary de Clifford," which he immediately sent to the press, (a bold step, taken for the purpose of fixing himself to the task), and he produced the remainder in proportion as the printer called for it, and sometimes almost as the post was nearly ready to depart, with a rapidity which at least shews that his powers were not yet reduced to a state of torpor.

Thus carelessly written, in a line of composition which he had not cultivated, and without a name, he had no expectation of the success of his little

work. But immediately on its publication in January 1792, it had, what is called *an uncommon run,* having become a great favourite with the class of readers for whom it was originally designed; and it still retains its place among them, there having been a demand, three or four years since, for another large impression. The story is simple, and without plot; but it has been pronounced to be replete with glowing language, picturesque description, and a high degree of sensibility. It is intermixed with poetry which has been much praised; and in which, whatever be the case with the author's earlier productions, there is certainly no stiffness.

A new course of events now engaged Sir Egerton's attention. By various means, such as the aid of his mother, who had a large fortune in her own power, and the death of his wife's father, he was enabled to make a considerable landed purchase near the place of his nativity, on which there was a venerable old mansion, formerly the scene of many of his childish plays, but then deserted and ruinous. Of this he took possession in the summer of 1792, and began to repair the house and alter the grounds with too little consideration of the expences in which he was about to involve himself. This employed him nearly three years; and the expenditure, which amounted to a great many thousand pounds, in conjunction with other acts of that inattention and imprudence which too often attends men of his cast, are reported to

have since lain with an oppressive weight upon him.

During this period neither the inspiring voice of the Muse, nor the once tempting seductions of antiquarian lore, seem to have ever operated upon his altered attention: he lived with the country gentlemen of the neighbourhood; he hunted; he rode races; he farmed; and his companions were surprised to find him a sociable being, willing to be pleased with the same pursuits as themselves. But he felt himself at times out of his proper sphere; he required some occupations of a more intellectual nature; and the ambition which he had always indulged by fits, prompted him to seek a seat in Parliament, by canvassing a neighbouring city, from which, however, he was soon induced, notwithstanding his family had a strong interest there, to withdraw; partly, perhaps, on account of the great expence of a contest, which he could ill afford, and partly from a consciousness that his manners were ill adapted for popular solicitation and intrigue.

As this disappointment, co-operating with other causes, made him restless, he soon after accepted the command of a troop in one of the new-raised regiments of fencible cavalry, with which he continued to serve for two years in different parts of England.

But it is probable that his studious habits, his eccentricities, his indolence, and his frequent absence of mind, were little suited to the duties of

a soldier; and in 1797, having lost his first wife and married Miss M. Robinson, niece of the late Lord Rokeby, he returned to his own home, where, disgusted by many concurring circumstances, he withdrew himself from his neighbours to his books, and the unbroken solitude of domestic privacy.

The love of reading now revived once more with double ardour; the Muses again deigned to visit him; and the pen was continually in his hand. He was in his 35th year; he had seen something of the world, in spite of his reserved manners and retired disposition, while his faculties were in their full vigour. A vacancy which now occurred, in another large town in his neighbourhood, induced some of the inhabitants to solicit him to come forward to oppose the court candidate, who offered himself to be re-elected. He hesitated, on account of the expense, and the difficulty of overcoming the ministerial influence; in this he resisted his own wishes, for it would have been the most delightful event of his life, could he have succeeded; and at length he declined their solicitation, of which he has often since repented.

In October 1798, came out a novel, in two volumes, intitled "Arthur Fitzalbini," which is universally attributed to Sir Egerton. This was instantly bought up and read with unusual eagerness; and in two or three months more, a new edition, which had been too long delayed, was published.

Like Mary de Clifford, it has scarcely any plot, and is merely a vehicle of description, sentiments, characters, and acute observations on life. The language has been pronouneed to be eloquent, flowing, and powerful; and the poetry, with which it is interspersed, has received warm applause. But there was instantly raised against it a cry of personal allusions, which immediately produced a torrent of resentment, calumny, and abuse, that has not yet subsided. All the periodical works of criticism which spoke well of it were assailed by private letters, some of them with names, others anonymous, in which every effort was made to blast the character of the person whom they supposed guilty of drawing portraits that resembled themselves or their friends; much persuasion was tried to induce them to retract the approbation they had bestowed; and there is too much reason to believe that this reputed author was falsely represented as a monster of iniquity and baseness.

Soon after this novel saw the light, Sir Egerton published the first volume of a new edition of a work, originally compiled by a nephew of Milton, the "Theatrum Poetarum," by Edward Philips. This came out in 1800, and exhibits proofs of Sir Egerton's extensive knowledge of biography, as well as his intimate acquaintance with typographical antiquities, and the ancient writers in that enchanting art, which he himself has cultivated. Not long before this he had written two pamphlets, one on the late augmentations of the peerage, in

which the lovers of private history and anecdote will find much amusement; the other, a short financial statement, entitled, "Tests of the National Wealth and Finances in December 1798;" which discovers his acquaintance with a new line of study, generally supposed to be uncongenial with those other attainments which he had hitherto proved himself master of.

In October 1802, there came out a novel, in three volumes, entitled, "Le Forester, by the Author of Arthur Fitzalbini," in which the story is interesting, and in many parts pathetic; the style too is surely not inferior to that of Sir Egerton's other productions. But, we believe, it has had less success than the author's previous works in the same line.

In both the last novels the author has been reported to allude to his own character. It is not impossible that some prominent traits in the minds of each of his heroes may be consonant to those he is most fond of cherishing in himself; but it is impossible that the leading events in the lives of *both* can belong to him, for they are inconsistent with each other. In truth many of the outlines of the latter tale seem borrowed from the famous Anglesea cause; nor could he ever imagine himself, as a younger brother, entitled to any honors, or unjustly deprived of any inheritance.

Sir Egerton now retired to a country life, where some accessions rendered his property con-

siderable, and fixed his residence in a beautiful seat and its surrounding estate.

In the year 1812, Mr. Egerton Brydges was elected M. P. for Maidstone, in Kent, and was thus, as it were, first called from the recluse station of a private gentleman, into the busy scenes of public life.

In 1815, he was created a baronet, an honour which he has well deserved by his laborious investigation of the honors and titles of others. Amongst his other works, he is the editor of a splendid edition of Collins's Peerage, in which he has added so much original matter, as almost to divide the honour with Collins himself.

His honours do not terminate here. At a chapter in Franconia, he was proposed by a friend as a suitable member, to enjoy the honour of belonging to one of the most ancient orders of knighthood in Europe. The nomination was accepted, and he was declared in due form, a Knight Grand Compounder of the Equestrian order of St. Joachim.

Sir Egerton Brydges is now rather advanced in life, and passes his time in his beautiful and elegant retreat of Lee, in Kent, where he enjoys his literary taste in quiet and solitude.

EARL BATHURST.

THIS nobleman is justly distinguished for two qualities, very rare in the present day amongst men conversant with parties and politics from their youth to their most mature age. He commenced his early course with the most sound and just constitutional principles, and, under no necessitude of times or change of party, has he ever departed from them. His conduct has always corresponded with the honourable maxim expressed in the motto of his armorial bearings. *Tiens ta foy*, is his motto, and his political conduct has ever been characterized by a faithful adherence to his earliest political friends. Without any imputation of servility or having sacrificed the just claims of the people to advance the prerogative of the crown, he has always been the steady advocate of those principles upon which the British monarchy rests; and, since the death of Mr. Pitt, he may be regarded as his most adequate representative. Accordingly, there has scarcely been a Tory Ministry, of which Lord Bathurst has not become a part, and we will venture to say, that there never will be one during the life of the noble Earl.

Lord Bathurst was born in the year 1762, the same year in which his Majesty was born, a circumstance which has not, perhaps, been without its weight, in recommending him to the personal

favour of the Sovereign. As we advance in life, we become only the more attached to those who have been our companions throughout, and with whom we can converse upon the pleasing scenes and images of our early life. Lord Bathurst remembers, as well as the king himself, those splendid days, in years long since past, when the king's mother, at that time a young woman, used to hold her German drawing rooms in Buckingham House, and used to preside with a stately magnificence, or perhaps, rather a repelling stiffness, of which no one, before or since has seen the like. He remembers, when the late king, with the two young princes, the present king and the late Duke of York, used to ride through the quiet lanes of Surry and Berkshire, and the beautiful spring or summer weather was in unison, as it were, with the spirits of the party, and every thing was gay, young, and cheerful around them. It cannot be a subject of surprise, that his Majesty should be attached to persons whose very presence is surrounded with associations of this nature, and that he should seldom be without the society of some one or more of the contemporaries of his youth.

It would be difficult to find a nobleman who has been more carefully educated than Lord Bathurst, or who seems to have derived more profit from his early instructors. He was scarcely of age before he became distinguished for his right judgment and sound constitutional knowledge. Upon his very entrance into public and political life, he saw the danger to which all the valuable institutions

of the country were exposed by what were called Whig principles, and he seized the first opportunity to declare his hostility to them. He knew and felt that the monarchy could not maintain itself, without that conscientious love and respect of the person of the king, which was only taught, and can only be diffused, by the spirit of the Established Church, and he knew, and felt likewise, that the Church could not be maintained in its due state of rank and public influence without receiving in protection what it gave in sanctity. He saw, that any material diminution of the power and influence of the crown would only augment the power of great families at the expence of the people, and would enable a stern and domineering aristocracy, composed of the Whigs, first to force themselves into administration, and then, having possessed themselves of the power and influence of government, to retain it in despite both of the king and the country.

Lord Bathurst entered public life upon these principles, and he acted upon them for the first time in the year 1780, when Mr. Fox introduced his celebrated India Bill. Lord Bathurst was at that time a commoner, and very young, but, upon the principles above mentioned, he opposed this bill with all his power and talents. It will not admit a doubt, that no civilized kingdom in the world, not excepting even Spain and Portugal, has ever been so ill governed as our East India possessions; and that this system of government

will continue in a greater or less degree, so long as the governors shall continue to be a company of merchants. There is not an example in the history of the world, of a country which, having been so long the colonial possession of a free and Christian government, has derived so few of the blessings of religion, or of the benefits of knowledge, from its rulers. From the first day of our possessing it, till the present time, the company have, in fact, always regarded it in the same single point of view,—as a conquered country, in which we have nothing farther to seek, than to make the most of it in pecuniary profit, and most sedulously to retain it in that state of blind ignorance and passive barbarism, which best qualifies it to be a willing slave. Something like Mr. Fox's bill was therefore wanting; but it was considered as a just objection to this bill, that, whilst it proposed to remedy one grievance, it had a tendency, and perhaps, a direct purpose, to establish a greater evil. A company of merchants, it was argued, were very unfit to exercise a sovereign power—but what might not be dreaded in England as well as in India, if a company of Whigs, a Whig aristocracy, should supplant them!

In the year 1788, Mr. Bathurst was appointed a Lord of the Treasury, and strenuously supported the administration of Mr. Pitt. When the question of the regency was discussed, Mr. Bathurst spoke on the side of the minister, and very justly argued, that it had become the duty of Parliament, not only to provide for the due go-

vernment of the country, but to take such securities, that the king, upon his recovery, should be enabled to resume the exercise of the rights of sovereignty. When, upon looking back in our memory to the era of which we are speaking, we recal the endless debates, the day after day, and night after night, which this question occupied; and when we now calmly reflect in how small a compass the common sense of the case, and the real point in issue, actually lay, it appears an extraordinary example of the operation of personal interest and prejudice upon the plainest matters. In the regency question, the simple inquiry before the Parliament was, whether, as the insanity of the king necessarily imposed upon the Parliament the duty of providing for the government of the country, it did not likewise become a duty upon the legislature to take care of the rights of the king in the event of his recovery. Yet plain as this question may now seem to be, ten volumes folio would scarcely contain the speeches, in which, on one side or the other, it was discussed in Parliament.

In the year 1793, Mr. Bathurst was nominated a commissioner for the affairs of India, and continued to support Mr. Pitt through all the difficulties of that perilous period. Fortunately for the very existence of the constitution, a large portion of the Whig party became alarmed at the danger of the new state of things, and agreed to support the government in its resolute and most honour-

able warfare against the French regicides. Mr. Burke had the honour of inducing the most powerful of the Whig Lords to adopt this conduct,—he had the greater honour of opening the eyes of the country to the true character of the French Revolution, and of thus stopping the contagion which was fast spreading amongst ourselves. During all this period, and this state of circumstances, Mr. Bathurst, and those with whom he acted, had the merit of having adopted just and right sentiments from the beginning; they saw the true nature of the monster in the moment in which it had begun to crawl, and they had spared no efforts to crush it before it had gained its tremendous strength and deadly venom. Whilst the Whig ords only began to make head against it, when it obviously threatened their own persons, properties, and titles, (one of them giving a reason for going over to the government, that these things were worth fighting for), Mr. Pitt, Mr. Bathurst, and all the other Tory leaders saw, from its very commencement, that there was no safety but in throwing away the scabbard, and continuing the fight, till one or the other should fall.

Upon the return of Mr. Pitt to the administration, after Lord Sidmouth had been raised to the Lords, in 1804, Lord Bathurst, (who had succeeded to the peerage on the death of his father, in 1794), was made Master of the Mint, one of those offices which pledge the holder to take an active part in the administration. It is now well understood, why Mr. Pitt declined power

during the preliminaries of the peace of Amiens, and upon what principles he resumed it upon the renewal of the war. Mr. Pitt, we believe, had the Catholic Question as little at heart as he had the question of the Slave Trade Abolition, and we are fully persuaded, that nothing of this nature would have induced him either to resign power or to accept it. The truth seems to be, that Mr. Pitt had pledged himself never to make peace with France, and that he saw that there could be no safety for England till the revolutionary power should be effectually destroyed. Upon the rupture, therefore, he willingly seized the occasion to resume the reins of administration, and the king and the country were unanimous in the opinion, that no one was so well qualified to conduct the war, as he who had commenced it. A more honest and honourable man than Lord Sidmouth is certainly not to be found in the united empire; the country is largely indebted to him for the firmness and probity of his administration, but, as a finance and war minister, it would be gross adulation to raise him to an equality with Mr. Pitt.

Upon the death of Mr. Pitt, and the formation of the Fox and Grenville administration, Lord Bathurst quitted his office of master of the mint, and was succeeded by Lord Charles Spencer. It is not difficult to conceive that Lord Bathurst would not act with a ministry, which, whatever might be the relative proportion of numbers, was decidedly a Whig ministry, and which in fact was

scarcely settled into place, before it began to assume a tone alike offensive to the king and people. This party, in fact, deemed itself to be so secure in power by the union of its own strength with that of the crown, augmented, moreover, by the Tory Lords, who had thoughtlessly ventured to take place with them, that they had no sooner taken their seats upon the Treasury bench, than, to the universal astonishment of the kingdom, they proposed and carried a measure for doubling the property tax, and for extending the Excise into every private dwelling in the Empire. The new Chancellor of the Exchequer scarcely troubled himself to answer the speeches of those who opposed him; he had an overwhelming majority to meet every question, and he seemed to think that nothing more was necessary.

In 1807, the indignation of the Sovereign dismissed this ministry, and Lord Bathurst became President of the Board of Trade and Master of the Mint. Mr. Percival became Chancellor of the Exchequer,—Mr. Huskisson, one of the Secretaries of the Treasury,—and Mr. Rose, a man than whom no one better understood the resources of the country, nor in what manner to avail himself of them in difficult times, was appointed Treasurer of the Navy. The three secretaries of the departments were Lord Liverpool, (then Lord Hawkesbury), Lord Castlereagh, and Mr. Canning; Lord Eldon was Lord Chancellor, and Lords Camden and Westmoreland were Lords President and

Privy Seal. Lord Bathurst, as President of the Board of Trade and Master of the Mint, was therefore in one of the most effective departments of the ministry; he had to preside over the trade of the country, and from time to time to bring forward those commercial laws, and to procure those qualifications in foreign treaties, which the condition of commerce required. Mr. Wallace, recently created a peer, was then made a member of the Board of Control,—Mr. Dundas, (now Lord Melville), being the president of the board. We have enumerated these several noblemen and gentlemen, because they form that Tory party, which, from that day to the present, with the short interruption of Mr. Canning's ministry, have always continued in administration; and, with the addition of three more men only, the Duke of Wellington, Mr. Goulburn, and Mr. Herries, now constitute his Majesty's Cabinet. We had forgotten indeed to add, that the Duke of Wellington, as Sir Arthur Wellesley, was himself a part of this early administration, being secretary to Ireland, under the Duke of Richmond as Lord Lieutenant. Mr. Herries, we believe, was at this period a mere clerk in the Treasury, upon an income perhaps not exceeding two hundred and fifty pounds a-year; and Mr. Goulburn was either a school-boy in Jamaica, or had just been sent from thence to receive his education in England.

From this period, to the melancholy illness of Lord Liverpool, there was scarcely any further

change in the offices of administration, or rather in the ministry, than such as were rendered necessary by the occasional death of one or the other of the high officers; in which case the vacancy was supplied from the Tory ranks, the character of the ministry always remaining the same. Upon the assassination of Mr. Percival, Mr. Vansittart, (now Lord Bexley), was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer, and remained in that office about twelve years, when Mr. Robinson succeeded him, and Lord Bathurst was appointed Colonial Secretary. In a word, Lord Bathurst has passed successively through almost all the high offices of state, and in all of them has manifested the same true constitutional principles. If the two principles of the Whig party are—a general religious toleration, and a jealous vigilance upon the gradual increase of the influence of the Crown; the two principles of the Tories are, the maintenance of the ecclesiastical as well as the civil constitution of the kingdom, and the assiduous support of such a degree of power in the king, as may be an adequate counterpoise to the aristocratic union of the great Whig families. Lord Bathurst and those who act with him, have seen two eminent examples of the use which the Whig party have made of their own power and influence. During the first administration of Mr. Fox, the late king was so much harassed and annoyed by their domineering tone and inflexible presumption, that he expressed upon one occasion his resolution to

leave the kingdom, and retire to his hereditary dominions in Hanover, if the Lords and Commons would not effectually support him against his ministers. Upon the second occasion, it became the lot of the people themselves to feel the abuse of power and influence by this party, when, in defiance of popular feeling, they doubled, as we have above said, the Property Tax, and extended the Excise into private dwellings.

Upon the illness of Lord Liverpool, Mr. Canning became minister, and the country was for a time exposed to the dangers of a new coalition, about to terminate in a new Whig administration. Fortunately, Lord Goderich was induced to retain office during the vacation, and, before the meeting of Parliament, the Duke of Wellington was called to form a new ministry. At the time we are writing, this matter is in issue; but Lord Bathurst is already nominated to a principal office in the Cabinet. We have only to add, that the country receives this nomination as an earnest of the character of the new ministry, and we hail it ourselves with unqualified pleasure.

Lord Bathurst is at the present time rather advanced in life, being in his sixty-sixth year; but having lived a life of active business, and we presume of habitual temperance and simplicity, he appears to be perfectly adequate to the discharge of the duties of office. We have only to express our hopes, that he may live yet many years to main-

tain those principles which have rendered our country what it now is.

His Lordship married a sister of the Duke of Richmond, and has many children by her. He has a beautiful country seat in the immediate vicinity of Cirencester, justly celebrated for its extensive woods, and widely spreading lawns,—the former seat and estate of the first Lord Bathurst the friend of Pope.

MR. SUGDEN,

KING'S COUNSEL.

THIS gentleman is another example of the effect of talents and industry, to raise their possessors to fortune and distinction, though wholly unaided by any advantages of birth and connexion. It is the praise of Mr. Sugden, that in every respect, as far at least as secondary causes are concerned, he is the architect of his own fortune, and that his own application and invincible industry have raised him to his present eminent station at the bar. Perhaps, there is no one in any of the courts, who, with so much business, and as an able conveyancer and real property lawyer, owes so little to ministerial patronage, and has so entirely advanced himself.

Mr. Sugden was born in London about the year 1770, being a contemporary with the present Lord Chancellor, and with most of those who are now in the first offices of the law. He is the son of a respectable and affluent tradesman, now, or lately, living in the vicinity of Bond-street, and there carrying on his business with credit and success. It is well known, that the late Mr. Pitt was not successful in all his taxes, and that some of his imposts were so contrary to popular feeling, and therefore excited such an adverse sentiment, that the people generally forbore the use of the article rather than pay the tax. This was the case with the commodity, or craft, in which Mr. Sugden's father was concerned; a tax was imposed, and the thing in question, as if the people had agreed together in a round-robin, went into immediate and total disuse. The greater portion of the elder Mr. Sugden's comrades in trade were either ruined, or forcibly cast down into a lower rank of dealing. Not so Mr. Sugden himself;—he was a man of genius in his peculiar line, and he immediately adopted the resolution to conform himself to his new circumstances, and to make the best of the new form into which public caprice had thrown his trade. He improved upon the substituted article, and soon obtained such a custom and reputation, that he was sought as an instructor by those in the same line; and thus, instead of losing by the change, perhaps very much advanced his fortune. This was an example of

talents, ingenuity, and fortitude, which does not appear to have been thrown away upon Mr. Sugden. Mr. Sugden himself owes his success in life to his prompt and timely changing the department of his original profession, if not his profession itself.

The neighbourhood of London abounds in seminaries which unite many of the advantages of private academies to some of those of the public schools, the master being frequently a gentleman educated at one of the latter, and thus carrying the excellent system of those schools into his private institution. Where this is the case, we do not hesitate to prefer these schools to the public establishments of Westminster or Eton, as they are almost equally well calculated to teach what is taught at these public schools, while they are attended with less expense, and with much less danger to the morals of the scholars. It is a necessary attendant on large schools, as on large manufactories, that where crowds are congregated together, whether of men or boys, there is a large proportion of vice—every individual is less under the eyes of the superintendant, and consequently acts under the less control; vice is thus emboldened at once by example and impunity; and a prudent master is compelled to connive at much, to avoid more. This is unquestionably the mischief of our public schools; it becomes impossible for the master and his assistants to exercise a due supervision and control over three or four hundred youths. Mr. Sugden has, therefore, per

haps, lost nothing by having been educated at a private school. According to the result of our inquiries, he is a most amiable man in all the relations of life, and governs his family and household with due gravity and temper. Knowing that he has a family to make, and a fortune to build, he is more occupied in the assiduous improvement of his fortune, than in the ostentatious enjoyment of it. In a word, we would almost venture to assert, upon the ground of his present mode of life, that his education was simple and modest, well calculated to form habits of industry and frugality, and to inspire the resolution of securely making a fortune before venturing to expend one.

Having fixed upon the study of the law as his profession, and upon conveyancing as the line in which he would choose to practise, Mr. Sugden, about the year 1795, entered the office of a Mr. Groom, a gentleman of the law, and at that time practising as a conveyancer. At the period of which we are speaking, conveyancers were not barristers; they seldom or ever went to the bar—their business was to draw and settle the deeds by which real property was conveyed from one to another, and to take care that the titles and assurances of purchasers were without flaw or objection. As their business was ample, and their fees liberal, they had neither leisure nor inducement to practise as barristers, and, accordingly, they seldom or ever did so. But it was still necessary to enter themselves upon the books of one of the le-

gal societies; Mr. Sugden, therefore, became a member of Lincoln's Inn, at the same time in which he became a pupil of Mr. Groom. In other words, he began to keep terms, and draw precedents of conveyancing.

Having completed the due number of terms, and rendered himself sufficiently competent to practise for himself, Mr. Sugden began business; and, as a good means of making himself known, he published, about the year 1800, a small legal work, entitled "A Brief Conversation with a Gentleman of Landed Property, about to buy or sell Lands." We may not give the exact terms of the title, but it was to that effect, and was the first means of Mr. Sugden's rise into business as a conveyancer. His practice now daily increased, and, in order to advance his reputation by the same means by which he had first acquired it, he published a larger work upon "Vendors," a treatise of so much practical utility and professional merit, that it has gradually established him as one of the first conveyancers of the day.

About this time, the department of the profession, which he had chosen for himself, underwent a great change. Like the lawyers in other lines of practice, the conveyancers, as a body, had contrived, perhaps, to make the mysteries which they did not find, or at least so far to thicken the obscurity, and to constitute such an artificial mode of drawing and settling, that they were beginning to have it all their own way; none but

themselves could understand or explain their drafts and their difficulties. Hence, some of their leading men, having already kept the due number of terms, by their habit of dining in the law halls, caused themselves to be called to the bar, and went into the courts to support their own drafts. Mr. Sugden followed this example, and with so much success, that, after a very short interval, he caused his clients to understand, that he would hereafter not confine himself to conveyancing, but take general business. The intimation was received with pleasure—business flowed upon him, and in the discharge of it he gave general satisfaction.

In this manner did Mr. Sugden come to the bar, and in this mode did he raise himself to a very considerable portion of legal business. But he had still so many competitors to encounter, and many of them men of such ability and reputation, that his income was for a time inconsiderable; he was seldom trusted with what is termed the "lead," and was supposed to be better qualified as a conveyancer than as a general real-property lawyer. In other words, he was now in a stage of practice, in which he wanted a patron. His book upon "Vendors" rendered him this service. The friends of the Duke of Northumberland recommended Mr. Sugden to his Grace, as an auditor, or receiver of his rents, and the Duke immediately appointed him. Mr. Sugden thus became a receiver of one of the largest rentals in the kingdom. Per-

haps not less than one hundred and twenty thousand pounds per annum, and, what was almost as valuable to him as a lawyer, procured the Duke as a patron.

From this period, Mr. Sugden has continued to rise in wealth, and in professional business. By the powerful recommendation of the Duke, the late Lord Chancellor was induced to give him a silk gown as King's counsel, and by his increasing income he was enabled to purchase a very considerable landed estate in the county of Sussex. The name of this estate is Tilgate Forest—a considerable tract of land, which, having acquired by his industry, Mr. Sugden is now, we believe, embellishing with his taste. In the winter, and indeed for nine months out of the twelve, Mr. Sugden is necessarily confined to London, by his professional occupations; but when the happy season of the long vacation sends the judges upon their circuits, Mr. Sugden seeks the retirement of Tilgate Forest, and, in the enjoyment of rural quiet, forgets there is such a place as the Court of Chancery, and such a noisy and litigating metropolis as London.

Having thus raised himself to fortune and reputation, Mr. Sugden has not been deaf to the calls of ambition, and has made one or two attempts to obtain a seat in Parliament. In the year 1818, it was very generally understood, that Sir Godfrey Webster would decline to stand for the county of Sussex, having already suffered very much in his

fortune, and being, as it was supposed, in no suitable condition to sustain an election. Under these circumstances, Mr. Sugden resolved to offer himself, and he accordingly issued the following address:

"*To the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders, of the County of Sussex.*

"Gentlemen,

"A third candidate has not yet offered himself to represent your county in Parliament, and it is now generally understood that no one will present himself. Since my last address to you, I have received such flattering promises of support from some, and of neutrality from others, that I can no longer hesitate to declare that I will stand forward to give you an opportunity to exercise your elective franchise on Monday next. I earnestly entreat the favour of your vote and interest. If I am chosen one of your representatives, my wish will be to support the general march of Government. On all great constitutional questions, I pledge myself to act with perfect independence, and with a due regard to the civil and religious liberty of the subject. To the local interests of the county I should consider my best attention due.

"I am, Gentlemen,

Your faithful and obliged Servant,

EDWARD BURTENSHAW SUGDEN.

"*Tilgate Forest Lodge, June* 19."

On the day of election, Mr. Sugden and Mr. Burrell, with the swords in their hands, were on the point of being elected, when their late member, Sir Godfrey Webster, was proposed by one of his relations, and seconded therein by Mr. Blackman. An immediate turn was given to the whole proceedings. Sir Godfrey, who had publicly announced his intention of declining the representation, was immediately sent for, and the whole county was in motion. Early on the following morning the Baronet arrived, having travelled all night.

The court opened as usual, where Sir Godfrey proceeded with a numerous escort of his friends.

Sir Godfrey Webster then addressed the freeholders; and stated to them, that his only motive in withdrawing himself from the contest, arose from the confidential intimation, that a nobleman of high rank would come forward, and solicit their suffrages. Under this impression, he was not ambitious to enter into a contest for the honour of being representative for the county, at the sacrifice of his fortune, because his family would not, nor did he wish them to derive any emolument from his services in Parliament. Upon that consideration he was induced to withdraw himself; but circumstances having changed, he was compelled to adopt another line of conduct.

Mr. Sugden then, in a manly manner, told Sir Godfrey Webster, that he opposed him because he thought him not a fit person to represent the

county, as he had not attended to his parliamentary duties. This declaration was of course received with disapprobation by the Baronet's friends. Mr. Sugden made a powerful appeal to the freeholders, which was received with great applause. Sir Godfrey then offered his hand to Mr. Sugden, who cordially accepted it; and the election terminated by Sir Godfrey and Mr. Burrell being declared the members. Such a rapid occurrence, and a sudden change, were scarcely ever known. Mr. Sugden was in possession of the field when Sir Godfrey was first proposed.

Since this time, Mr. Sugden has made one or two attempts to procure a seat in Parliament, and, by the time this memoir is in the hands of the reader, he will probably have succeeded.

EARL GREY.

THIS nobleman is the son of the late Earl Grey, who died in 1807, by Miss Grey, of Southwick, in the county of Durham. His father is better known by the name of Sir Charles Grey; he was a military officer of good service and much repute, and was advanced to the peerage for his long standing and unquestioned merit in his profession. The family of the Greys is of great antiquity in the county of Northumberland, though

the assertion of the heralds, that its original name was De Croy, and that it is descended from some family of that name which came over with the Conqueror, seems entirely fantastical; the truth undoubtedly being, that the family is called Grey, as other families are called Whites and Browns, from the Saxon custom of affixing appellations from some accidental circumstance of colour, or other prevailing quality. The present family are descended from a gentleman of the name of Henry Grey, who served the office of high sheriff in the year 1736, and was made a baronet in the year 1746.

The present Earl was born in the year 1764, and having attained the proper age, he was sent to Eton. Here he was educated with many others of his present contemporaries: but during almost the whole of the time he was in the school, he had seldom the satisfaction of seeing his father. Sir Charles Grey, like the late Lord Collingwood, was always on service, and though a married man, and with a very numerous family, had seldom the leisure or opportunity to see any of them. Whilst his son was at school, the father was in the wilds of America, undergoing all the perils and hardships of the revolutionary war. His son, Charles, however, did not seem to suffer much from the absence of parental control; the discipline of the school well supplied it, and Mr. Grey became, under its effect, a good scholar, and a grave, steady, and promising youth.

From Eton he passed to the University, and

though we have never heard that he distinguished himself much during his collegiate course, it is probable that he was not inferior to the other wealthy youths of his time. The truth is, that much is not expected in either University from the young men of this class; and they are deemed entitled to some praise, if they arrive at their bachelor's degree without rustication. It cannot be denied, that the present system of collegiate education requires the strong hand of legal authority to correct its evils, and to introduce a more effectual discipline and control into both Universities. It is not to be tolerated, that the youth of the kingdom should be any longer exposed to so many temptations to ruinous expense and profligate habits; and that gentlemen of moral feelings, and moderate fortunes, should be deterred from sending their sons to these seats of learning, lest the young men should be ruined in their morals, and their fathers in their fortunes. Let it not be supposed, however, for a moment, that we are advocating the cause of the London University; we would prefer a thousandfold that our youth should be spendthrifts, than Scotch Philosophers; we would rather as parents lose our money, (supposing we were in the rank of gentlemen), than that our children, by a cheaper education, should lose that religious faith, and those delicate feelings of gentlemanly honour, which always have, and we hope always will, characterize the sons of English gentlemen. We complain only of the absence of all control, and all superintendance, over the la-

vish and shameful expenditure of young men at College, or, in other words, the absence of all means of preventing that system of plunder (of which they are the objects) on the part of the tradesmen of the Universities. A short Act of Parliament, enacting that no action should be brought against any youth in the University, for any debt contracted by him whilst at college, although upon a subsequent promise to pay, would correct all this mischief; as the present course is, to give unlimited credit to young men before they are of age, and procure their promise to pay afterwards—a promise which is made of course, as the necessary interval for gaining their bachelor's degree detains them at the University for at least two years after they have reached their majority.

Upon leaving the University, Mr. Grey visited the Continent to make the usual grand tour; France, Italy, and Spain, being then opened by the general peace which terminated the American war. The Duke and Duchess of Cumberland were on their travels at the same period, and happening to meet with Mr. Grey, an intimacy ensued between them. A singular anecdote is related of the Duchess, which, in passing, we may be allowed to repeat. She was afflicted, for so it may be termed, with the unfortunate habit of walking in her sleep. A large party was assembled at the country house of an Irish gentleman, in a remote part of Ireland; the party were staying at the house, and the Duchess, at that time Mrs. Horton, was one of the visitors. One winter's night, the ladies

had all gone to their beds, and the gentlemen, collecting around the table and the fire, were protracting their compotations late into the night; when, on a sudden, the door of the apartment was opened, and a young lady, habited only in her night dress, with a candle in her hand, and with a singular look in her eyes, entered the room. The gentlemen, in some alarm, were all about to rise, and perhaps some of them to run from the apartment, when the master of the house, by a sign and whisper, retained them in their seats, causing them to observe, that it was a lady walking in her sleep. Having deliberately walked round the apartment, she retired as she entered. This lady, as we have above stated, was Mrs. Horton; afterwards, by her second husband, Duchess of Cumberland, or Gloucester, at the present moment we forget which.

Mr. Grey returned from his travels in the year 1785, and had scarcely arrived, when Lord Algernon Percy, one of the members for Northumberland, succeeded, on the death of his father, the Duke of Northumberland, to the title of Lord Loraine. A vacancy thus occurred in the representation of the county, and as the property of Mr. Grey's uncle, Sir Henry Grey, was the third great estate in Northumberland, Mr. Grey resolved to offer himself. He was elected without opposition. At this period he was only in his twentieth year and his father and mother were still so much in the vigour of life, that Mr. Grey's election

and his mother's accouchement of another daughter, were very nearly contemporaneous. Perhaps no family in high life has contributed more subjects to his majesty than the late Sir Charles Grey, except it is Sir Robert Peel.

The first political subject upon which Mr. Grey distinguished himself, was the Commercial Treaty between England and the Continent. He is said, by those who remember the occurrences of that period, to have displayed good abilities upon this occasion, and to have declaimed upon the subject of our mercantile relations with no ordinary share of eloquence and spirit.

A very short time afterwards, he was invited to become a member of the Whig Club, and it is almost unnecessary to add, that he was unanimously elected. From this time forth, he assumed the tone and air of a Whig leader, and Mr. Fox and his party cheerfully adopted a member so powerful in property and family influence.

Upon the publication of Paine's infamous work, "The Rights of Man," Mr. Grey was infected with the wide-spreading delusion, and certainly talked and acted in a way which had any effect but that of strengthening the hands of Government in times of so much peril and difficulty. Together with his friends, he formed the Society called by the invidious name, "The Friends of the People," as if the people needed such a union against the established authorities, and the abuses and despotic purposes

of the existing government. It was said, indeed, that the object of this association was to assume and fill a middle place between a republican form of government on the one hand, and an aristocracy, bordering on despotism, on the other. Whatever might be the avowed object of this Society, it certainly fed the pestilential contagion of the times, and involved the government in the greatest embarrassment and difficulties.

One of Mr. Grey's earliest speeches in Parliament was upon the subject of an interference between Russia and the Porte, when Russia besieged and took Oczacow, and had attained to a degree of power which menaced the independence of her continental neighbours. It is now well known, that Mr. Fox, with a singular boldness, to give it no other name, sent Mr. Adair on a kind of party mission to the late Empress Catherine, the effect of which was to confirm that modern Semiramis in her ambitious enterprises, and entirely to defeat the public British minister at St. Petersburgh. Mr. Grey's speech upon this subject is a good specimen of the general style of his oratory; and, as it is not well known, we shall subjoin a passage from it:—

"It should be a maxim," he said, "with every commercial nation to oppose and soften the animosities of its neighbours. We should not court misfortunes and all the concomitants of war. The mind of the minister, however, is in that state of fermentation, which, if not qualified and corrected

by the interposition of Parliament, must hurry on the destruction of the country. There are some things, Sir, about which mankind are generally agreed. Amongst these things are to be reckoned the just causes of going to war; and he should maintain, that the only just cause of war originated in the principle of self-defence. A nation's right of attack was founded in the principles of self-defence, and no war could be justified on the grounds of political expediency, whatever the consequences of it might be, and however profitable and advantageous it might turn out to the state. The cases then, in which war is just, may be rereduced to three:

"1, When it is undertaken to redeem a right forcibly withheld, and to which we have an irresistible claim.

"2, In providing for future safety.

"And 3, in a right of repelling an *unjust* attack.

"Now, he would ask, was there any danger which at present threatened this country? Had any of our rights been violated? or any unjust aggression been made upon them?

"What the Empress of Russia sought was simply this: the town of Oczakow, and the country between the Bog and Dneister. And how could it possibly be stated, that the acquisition of this territory was so material to the Empress, as to make her formidable to the rest of Europe, or even to Turkey? It was clear, that the only ground of the war would be, to wrest the fortress from the

Empress and restore it to the Porte, and this our ministers were about to attempt, under the idea that Oczakow was the key of European Turkey; whereas it had never been considered in this light by Russia, which had actually opened the finest provinces of the Ottoman empire in Europe without this key. Gentlemen must remember, that in the war before the present, the forces of the Empress penetrated through another quarter as far as Mount Hæmus, when the Grand Vizier had no more than ten thousand men to defend that important pass, on which the safety of Constantinople depended."

This speech gave rise to an important debate, and the question was lost on a division of one hundred and seventy, to two hundred and fifty-three. Nor is it necessary to add here, that Mr. Pitt was obliged, at length, to relinquish the contest.

In May, 1791, we find Mr. Grey taking the lead in a business which, in the language of a great orator of the day, "shed a lustre on the character and humanity of the nation." The subject to which we allude was the melancholy situation of those who were unable to satisfy the demands of importunate creditors, and consequently subjected to the operation of a rigorous code of laws. In compliance with a previous notice, he now moved for the appointment of a committee to inquire into the present practice and effect of imprisonment for debt, observing, "that it was desirable to

distinguish the unfortunate debtor from the knavish one; to place the creditor in that situation which afforded the fairest and the speediest means of compensation; and to regulate the gaols of this country, in such a manner as to prevent unnecessary hardship and restraint. Whether they considered the practice of confining for debt men who had no means of discharging such debt, or, on the contrary, fraudulent debtors, whose creditors by no process could compel them to pay; these circumstances were alone sufficient to constitute an inquiry into the state of the laws relating to debtor and creditor." This motion being acceded to, a committee, consisting of Mr. Grey, Mr. Pitt, Sir John Sinclair, Mr. Vansittart, Mr. Martin, the Attorney and Solicitor-Generals, together with several gentlemen of the long robe, was immediately appointed.

In 1793, Mr. Grey and the opposition had to appear in a new character, and fight in a new field. It had hitherto been their grand object to attack Mr. Pitt on the unconstitutional manner by which, according to them, he had first crept into, and then maintained himself in power, as well as to expose his misgovernment, exemplified in the waste of the public treasure, in consequence of the ruinous and useless armaments recurred to by him for no good purpose whatsoever. A new field of accusation now opened itself, in consequence of the war meditated by the cabinet against France; and it cannot be doubted, but that, had

the minority remained firm and united in the same principles on which they originally combined, the minister would have been more embarrassed. But some were undoubtedly actuated by the hopes of place, power, and emolument, while others were really and seriously alarmed at the situation of France, the spread of republican principles, and the dangers incident to a reform. However, on the sudden meeting of Parliament, a few were still found tenacious of their ancient opinions, and excited rather than discouraged by the apprehension of future misfortunes, to ward off a war which was likely to be attended with the most disastrous consequences. Accordingly, Lord Wycombe, son of the Marquis of Lansdowne, strenuously opposed the address; and Mr. Fox, considering the speech as that of the minister, declared "his belief that every assertion in it was false and unfounded. He deprecated the prosecution of men for their opinions, as actions, not opinions, were criminal; and remarked that no fears were exhibited by the government during the march of the Duke of Brunswick, in whose discomfiture and retreat he exulted and rejoiced, *as that retreat was a triumph to every lover of liberty.*"

Mr. Sheridan asserted "that no insurrection had, or was likely to happen; he condemned as illegal the assembling the grand inquest of the nation, for the purpose of presenting a false bill against the people; and charged administration

with schemes which they dare not avow in a manful manner."

Mr. Grey supported the amendment which had been prepared by Mr. Fox, "to reject the whole of the address, excepting such part as professed an attachment to his Majesty and the constitution." He at the same time "deprecated the conduct of the government in the whole of their administration, but particularly in the measure of assembling the parliament, which had excited an alarm throughout the country, for some wicked purpose of ministry. If grievances are complained of, (added he), remove them, and all idea of sedition would be annihilated. For this purpose, he had, in the course of last year, given notice of his intention to move a reform in parliament, in which intention he continued, and should embrace the first opportunity of performing." Mr. Windham and Mr. Burke seized on this occasion to express their opinions freely; and as they were now considered as having abandoned the opposition for ever, the one was soon after nominated Secretary at War, and the other received a pension on lives, which produced upwards of twenty-five thousand pounds sterling.

A few days after this, Mr. Grey accused the ministers "of having abused the act of parliament, and deceived the public, in making use of the word *insurrections* for the purpose of calling out the militia, and convening the legislature;

whereas the real design was to catch the impulse of national loyalty, and to draw the House into measures, which, on cool reflection, they would find cause to repent of." He then adverted to a riot at Manchester, said to be occasioned by a new association "for preserving property, &c. against republicans and levellers;" in consequence of which the houses of Messrs. Cooper and Walker were destroyed. He also mentioned a little pamphlet, issued by the society at the Crown and Anchor, called "A Pennyworth of Truth from Thomas Bull to John Bull," and read a passage from it, which ascribed the American war, the national debt, &c. to the dissenters, in order to inflame the minds of the people against them. He concluded by moving, "That the Attorney-General be ordered to prosecute the author of this libel;" but after a speech from Messrs. Windham and Dundas, the measure was immediately negatived.

Although Mr. Grey and his associates condemned the war, yet he professed, on more than one occasion, that neither he nor his immediate friends deemed it proper to deny any aid that could strengthen the hands of government. They, however, opposed, and that strenuously, a number of subsidiary treaties, particularly the one entered into with Sardinia, when communicated to the house, in 1794. On that occasion he asserted, that the negociation was not only iniquitous and unjust, but absurd and impolitic. "The ques-

tion now before us is, (said he), not whether the £200,000 had been given as a hire, or as a boon, to animate those effeminate Sardinians in defence of their own territory; but whether a treaty, which went to such an extravagant length as that now before them, was such as either expediency or sound policy could dictate to any set of men employed in the service of their country."

In the course of the same month Mr. Grey, on moving, "that it is the opinion of this house that the employing of foreigners in any place of trust, or foreign troops within the kingdom, without the consent of parliament first had and obtained, is unconstitutional, and contrary to law," took an opportunity to express his just and equal abhorrence of despotism and anarchy. "France, (he thought), groaned under the most furious tyranny, and he would prefer the domination of Nero or Caligula to the authority of those who now governed that nation." In respect to the policy or expediency of employing foreign troops within the realm, under given circumstances, he declined to express any opinion; but he contended, whether the measure was right or wrong, that it was highly unconstitutional to adopt it without the previous consent of parliament. He quoted a number of precedents, from 1698 to 1775, as pertinent to the question then agitated: he also quoted the Bill of Rights to the same purpose; and as the minister had intimated, that the previous assent of parliament was only necessary when his Majesty meant

"to quarter and billet the troops," he ably and forcibly pointed out, that from the present extension of barracks this restraint would be totally evaded. The administration did not choose to get rid of this subject by a direct negative, but by the previous question, and the minority was now seen to shrink to thirty-five; so that from this moment no rational hopes could be entertained of stopping the career of the minister!

It would occupy a whole volume to detail the speeches of Mr. Grey in the House of Commons. Scarcely any great debate has taken place, subsequently to his appearance in public life, in which he has not borne a distinguished part. Throughout the whole of the late war he testified his uniform disapprobation of the measures of Mr. Pitt.

At the general election, in 1806, Mr. Grey declined to stand for the county of Northumberland, as in so doing he would have incurred a long and expensive contest. He was, therefore, brought into Parliament for the borough of Appleby, which he continued to represent till the death of his father.

After many years' opposition, an union of parties took place in the year 1806, and Mr. Grey became First Lord of the Admiralty. Upon the death of Mr. Fox, he succeeded him as Secretary of State for the Foreign Department, and for a short interval, a very short one, conducted the administration of the country. It is unnecessary to repeat upon what principles this ministry was

dissolved. In fact, both King and country had become alike wearied of them, and no minister ever retired into private life with more general satisfaction than Mr. Grey.

Very early in the following year, Mr. Grey's father died in his 78th year, and Mr. Grey, then at the age of 46, succeeded to the peerage.

Since this time, with a very few exceptions, Earl Grey has lived at his country seat at Fallowden House, in Northumberland, where he employs himself in the amusements of a country life, and in the occupations of a large farm. He has, or had, a farm of nearly three thousand acres in his own hands, and, in the pleasure of cultivating it, he seems (except occasionally) to forget the pursuits of ambition. Now and then, however, he makes his appearance in the House of Lords, and speaks once or twice in the Session. He is still one of the best, if not the best orator in the House, and, now that his more mature life has subdued the ardour and zeal of party and competition, he is always heard with attention, and sometimes, perhaps, with profit.

Earl Grey married, in 1794, a daughter of Lord Ponsonby, by whom he has a family of sons and daughters. His Lordship is now in his 64th year.

SIR CHARLES WETHERELL.

THIS is another of those public characters whom the church has contributed to the law, and by whom, therefore, the former may confidently expect that its ecclesiastical rights and constitution will be zealously preserved. We have frequently had occasion to say, that we are living in times, in which a strong and malevolent jealousy prevails against our English universities, and that unless those who have been nurtured in those antient institutions, shall come forward with a zeal corresponding with the enmity directed against them, our colleges will be unable, by their unassisted strength, to sustain themselves against the spirit of the times. With Scotch statesmen, and with leaders of opposition educated by Scotch professors, with a Scotch university rising in the midst of the British metropolis, and with a hundred half-learned but loquacious Scotch lecturers, with all these direct foes to contend against, it is manifest that the English universities must at length bethink themselves of their arms and shield, and cannot safely despise adversaries who make up in number what they want in strength. If the battle were by the fair tug of war between brave and generous combatants—if learning were to be opposed by learning, and the manifest fruits of one university were

to be collated with the known results of another, we should have no fear—we should know that our English *alma mater*, like the Berecynthia of the poets, could produce her hundred sons, and every son a giant. But as we see that the battle is to be by the tongue and the teeth, rather than by the sword and the arm—by the sap and the mine, rather than by the onset and assault, we confess that we are not without our apprehensions. At all events, it becomes us to be on the alert, and to lose nothing by a defect of due vigilance.

Sir Charles Wetherell is the son of Dr. Wetherell, late head of University College, Oxford. He was born about the year 1770, being about the same age with the present Chancellor. Having gone through the usual scholastic course preparatory to a collegiate education, he was entered on the books of the university, and began to apply in earnest to the regular studies. He had every advantage which a birth in the very midst of learning, and the auspices and example of his family could afford him; his family was a proof of what were the sure rewards of distinction; many of them, we believe, enjoying an independence from what they held in their respective colleges. There were two other gentlemen of the same name, and at the same time, at Magdalen College and Edmund Hall, who were, no doubt, Sir Charles's kinsmen.

University College has been particularly distinguished in the present era, for having been the institution in which two of the most busy and

most able men of the day received their education, and, after a course of hard and laborious study not often equalled, came forth from their monastic cells to take part in the busy concerns of political life. Whilst Dr. Wetherell was head of the college, he had Lord Eldon and Lord Stowell first as students, and afterwards as fellows—one of them indeed became the tutor of the college, and we have no doubt lectured in the Greek Testament, and listened to demonstrations in the first four books of Euclid, with as much patience and calmness as he now exhibits towards the advocates of Doctors Commons. It is difficult to imagine a wider contrast, than such as must exist between the functions of the lecture-room, and those of the court of justice—the sober and tardy tutor, and the busy and active advocate. We can imagine, however, that Lords Stowell and Eldon found themselves as much at home in their combination-room at University College, as in their more dignified seats in the Chancery and Prerogative Courts; and from our own remembrance of what colleges and their combination-rooms are, we think we can still trace, not only the quiet manners of the old collegian, but his dry and pleasant jokes, in both Lord Eldon and his brother. In these collegiate establishments the jokes, indeed, constitute a part of the system almost as much as the course of lectures itself, and the stock of one is almost as regular and identical as the routine of the other. We have little doubt, but that the jokes

of Dr. Wetherell are now repeated by the present head; and the gentlemen of the Court of Chancery are not a little mistaken, if, whilst they have been laughing at the jests of their Chancellor, they flatter themselves that they were the offspring of the moment—they were the stock of the combination-room, had amused their fathers before them, and will excite the happy risibility of generations yet to come. Let no one think these observations out of place—University College is the oldest in Oxford, and, being therefore better supplied with this solid humour and long-stored pleasantry, sends forth into the great world a larger proportion of wits and humourists. It is not perhaps the least pleasing trait in the character of the present Sir Charles Wetherell, that he is not without this common mark of his collegiate origin; and he is not altogether without his originalities.

Upon leaving the university, Mr. Wetherell came to London, that he might enter upon the study of the law. He immediately entered himself a student, and having deliberated upon the department of law of which he should make choice, he selected the Court of Chancery. It has before been mentioned, that Chancery practice, at the time of which we are speaking, was divided into two branches—conveyancing, and equity drawing and pleading. The conveyancers, though a more laborious class of men, and, as regarded legal reading, more learned, did not at this period hold the same rank with the equity drafts-men and

pleaders; the conveyancers very seldom becoming barristers, whilst the equity men kept their whole number of terms, and were then duly called to the bar. Conveyancing was held to be the most promising branch for making a fortune, equity drawing and pleading was the only road to the high prizes in the profession. Mr. Wetherell determined for equity, and accordingly applied himself with vigour and earnestness to procure the requisite knowledge.

Having kept his due number of terms, and been called to the bar about the year 1794, he immediately began practice, and having the advantage of a good paternal fortune, he was not thrown into the back ground by the want of means to sustain a due appearance. It may be true, that small certainties are the bane of young men of talents, as they remove one of the main spurs to exertion; they induce indolence, and lessen that spirit of diligence and application which is necessary to encounter the difficulties of a laborious study. In the law, however, it is equally true, that many young men break down in despair, before they have passed over half the course; and this more frequently happens with those, who, having no other means of support than what they hope to derive from their profession, are compelled almost by necessity to abandon the law, and betake themselves to some other line of life, when their small and tardy gains are insufficient even for their daily needs. In plain words, let no one ven-

ture upon the profession of a barrister, unless he can reckon on means at least competent to his support for the first seven years after he shall be called. We believe that Mr. Wetherell, in common with many other gentlemen of the same profession, experienced this truth; for many years after he was at the bar, he was comparatively little known, and had to work hard for an inconsiderable income.

His father, Dr. Wetherell, died in the year 1808, and Mr. Wetherell, at that time coming into practice, obtained an ample fortune by his decease. The office of head of a college in Oxford cannot fall much short of two thousand pounds *per annum;* and as the expenses of these gentlemen very seldom exceed a third part of this income, they generally die rich enough to bequeath large fortunes to their family. Now, Dr. Wetherell was head of his college nearly fifty years, that is, from 1764 to 1808; his accumulations were, therefore, very great; and we believe Sir Charles Wetherell has received the greatest portion. With a fortune like this, perhaps not much short of one hundred thousand pounds, it is a subject of some surprise, not indeed that Sir Charles should have remained at the bar, but that, for so many years, he should have so actively persevered against no inconsiderable discouragement, and should have worked as hardly, and as earnestly, as if he had no dependence but upon his professional gains. According to public report, he very long considered

himself as a neglected and ill-treated man; and, when it is considered that his father had been head of University College, whilst Lords Eldon and Stowell had been successively students and fellows upon its foundation, it certainly does appear extraordinary that the late Lord Chancellor suffered so many years to elapse without remembering the son of his college friend. The truth, however, we believe to be, that the Lord Chancellor always intended to promote Mr. Wetherell at last, but that with the usual tardiness of age, and with its insensibility to the lapse of time, he suffered year after year to pass over, always resolving and always postponing.

Mr. Wetherell's first opportunity of rendering himself well known to the public, and indeed of attracting the attention of Ministers, was the trial of Preston, Thistlewood, Hooper, and some others, for treason, in the year 1818. Mr. Wetherell was counsel for one, Mr. Copley, now Lord Lyndhurst, for the second, and Mr. Holt for the third. It is rather singular, that in a less or greater degree, all the counsel employed on this occasion have been advanced, Mr. Copley being now Lord Chancellor, Mr. Wetherell, Attorney-General, and Mr. Holt Vice-Chancellor of Lancaster.

Upon this occasion Mr. Wetherell distinguished himself in a speech of great force and eloquence, but spoke with an imprudent warmth upon the general conduct of the government in employing spies. The character of the informer in question

was indeed such as to justify the strong observations of Mr. Wetherell; but, as the ministers were present, and as Mr. Wetherell was at this time seeking for court favour and patronage, his vehemence, to say the least of it, was ill-timed. It is no inconsiderable praise to Lord Liverpool, that he either never conceived any offence upon this occasion, or very shortly forgot it; for the abilities of Mr. Wetherell were remembered, whilst, of his angry declamation, not a word was said.

When Mr. Copley became Attorney-General, upon the promotion of Sir R. Gifford, the Lord Chancellor at length recollected Mr. Wetherell, and he was appointed Solicitor-General. We believe that the nomination gave so much the more satisfaction, as it was wholly unexpected both by Mr. Wetherell and his friends. It was peculiar to the late Chancellor, that he seldom knew his own purpose till he finally executed it, and almost always let his performance either accompany or precede his promise. We do not know the fact, but we have little doubt that Mr. Wetherell had no idea that he was about to be appointed, till he received the letter requesting him to wait upon the Chancellor.

As Solicitor-General, a larger field opened upon the prospects and the labours of Sir Charles Wetherell; he now deemed it necessary to be active in Parliament, and the name of the Lord Chancellor was never mentioned in the debate, without the immediate effect of raising Sir Charles upon

his legs as his ardent defender. It is scarcely necessary to mention, that the opposition, seconded in this case by the concurrent voice of the country, complained loudly and incessantly of the delays in the Court of Chancery, and imputed them to the passive indolence, and hesitating and reluctant habits of the Lord Chancellor. The attack was opened by Mr. Williams, and well followed up by Mr. M. A. Taylor and Mr. Brougham. It cannot be denied that there was a very great portion of truth and justice in this charge of vexatious and ruinous delay; and that it was no good and sufficient answer that the decrees of the Chancellor were learned and satisfactory; and that, if his judgments were slow, they were, from their manifest and obvious justice, irreversible. To what purpose, indeed, was it, that of one hundred causes, ten were ably decided, whilst, in the ninety others, the delay was such as to amount to an effectual denial of justice; the original parties being dead or ruined, and the subject matter of litigation being so exhausted or incumbered by the costs of suit, as to be scarcely sufficient to pay the lawyers. Mr. Wetherell, however, having now become Solicitor-General, appears to have considered himself as the retained advocate of the Lord Chancellor; he defended his conduct upon all occasions, and saw nothing worthy of surprise or complaint in the alleged and proved delays. The consequence was, that he was not heard with

much pleasure in the House itself, and he certainly did not advance his credit with the public.

When Sir John Copley became Master of the Rolls, Sir Charles Wetherell was made Attorney-General, and seemed in a fair road for becoming the Chancellor, the Rolls being such a certain, as well as sufficient provision, that it seemed a matter of doubt whether Sir John Copley would exchange them for the seals. Sir John, however, acceded, as it is believed, to the personal request of the King, accompanied with a kind of royal promise, that, during His Majesty's life he should not be displaced. Sir Charles Wetherell was thus confirmed in his office of Attorney-General; and as reputation follows rank in the courts as well as in the world itself, his business and its profits rose with his rank.

The melancholy indisposition of Lord Liverpool broke up his ministry, and that of Mr. Canning succeeded. It is unnecessary to repeat the narrative of events so recent; the whole body of the Tories, excepting Lord Bexley, Mr. Sturges Bourne, and one or two others, threw up their places, and Mr. Canning was compelled hastily to compose an administration from his own personal friends. It was generally believed, that such a cabinet would be unable to sustain itself against the united force of public opinion, and a very strong Tory party in the Lords. Mr. Canning was himself of this opinion, and he is said to have sunk under the apprehension.

The death of Mr. Canning, which, however differing in political views, every one must lament, has restored the Tory party to the administration, and Sir Charles to his former office of Attorney-General. In general scholarship and exact learning, he as much exceeds Sir James Scarlett as he falls short of him in the qualities of an advocate: he wants his tact, his dexterity, his pleasant and familiar intercourse with the Court.

Sir Charles Wetherell is married; he lives in much simplicity in his house at Lambeth, and certainly is not impairing a fortune already sufficiently ample.

MR. GOULBURN.

IN the life of Sir James Scarlett we have had occasion to say, that he is one of those public characters for which we are indebted to the island of Jamaica; and though we do not hold him forth as an example for imitation, either in his political conduct or his known private life, it is impossible not to allow that he possesses a useful and extraordinary degree of acuteness, and indeed all the qualifications which constitute an able advocate in the common business of the courts. Mr. Goulburn is another of those public characters which Jamaica has conferred upon England, and one so much more valuable than Sir James Scarlett, as being a

person attached to all the ancient institutions of the country, and educated in the principles which have characterized the English gentry in the best times, and as being superior to a mere Whig partisan and practising lawyer.

Mr. Goulburn was born about the year 1780, of parents who had been long settled in the island of Jamaica, and in the parish of St. Ann. His father was an opulent planter, and it is to be presumed that the son inherits the estates. It is probable that the family passed from England into that island at the same period with the family of the Scarletts, though we believe the Goulburns to be the more ancient of the two. Be this as it may, the father appears to have been a man in very opulent circumstances, as he not only possessed an estate in the island, but was enabled occasionally to leave his concerns to the management of the overseer, and enjoy a temporary residence in England. When in England, he usually fixed his abode in London, and in one of the streets or squares in the parish of Bloomsbury. In the parish church of St. Giles in the Fields is a monument to Mrs. Goulburn, the mother, we believe, of the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, in which she is mentioned as a lady of very excellent qualities. She died during one of those occasional residences in England, as the monument speaks of her not as a parishioner, but as the wife of Mr. Goulburn, of the parish of St. Ann, in the island of Jamaica.

According to the usual practice of wealthy families, Mr. Goulburn and his two brothers, one of them now a barrister, the other an officer in the army, were sent at an early age to England for their education, and were here instructed in that course of knowledge and accomplishments which are necessary to constitute the gentleman. About twenty years ago, the writer of this memoir first became acquainted with this family: one of the members, an officer in the army, at that time a very young man, had unhappily embarrassed himself in some quarrel with the quiet citizens of Canterbury, the regiment happening to be stationed there at that time, and Mr. Goulburn having amused himself with poetical sketches of some of the characters there resident. We have no doubt that experience, and a more mature age, have cured Mr. Goulburn of this poetical vein, or at least of its unrestrained indulgence. Unquestionably he was at that time a young man of good talents, though of some imprudence in indulging them.

We are not enabled to state at what time Mr. Goulburn became a member of the university of Cambridge, nor in what year he took his degree, but we find his name on the boards of Trinity College, where his countryman, Mr. Scarlett, passed his terms, and obtained his degree. Though Mr. Goulburn is unquestionably a man of some genius, and of a very creditable compass of knowledge, we have never heard that he was an accomplished scholar, and should

be inclined to doubt the fact. The truth is, that from his very birth, Mr. Goulburn appears to have been too opulent to have any temptation to undergo this strict course, and we find, moreover, that he commenced his public life almost too early to have allowed it. Considering, indeed, the presumed wealth of the family, it is a reasonable subject of surprise, that, with so little temptation for exertion, the young men have exerted themselves so much.

In public life, Mr. Goulburn became first conspicuous as the Secretary of the Marquis Wellesley, during his lieutenancy in Ireland. It is a well known maxim with the British Government to effect a kind of *concordia discors* between the Lord Lieutenants and their Secretaries; or, in other words, so to control the known political sentiments of the Viceroy by the contrary feelings of the Secretary, as to preclude any mischievous excess. Hence, a high Protestant Lord Lieutenant is usually accommodated with a Whig secretary; and, on the other hand, a liberal or moderate Viceroy is invariably accompanied with a Tory for his first civil officer. In some degree this mode was followed upon the appointment of the Marquis Wellesley, though the control was not so strong and effective as in the case of the predecessors of that nobleman.

It is now well known, that the state of Ireland was very perilous when the Marquis of Wellesley was sent over as Lord Lieutenant. The Catholic

party had resorted to an instrument entirely of new invention, but formed much upon the plan of those affiliated societies, which had produced such terrible effects in the French revolution. With the purpose of providing funds to support their petitions to Parliament, the Catholic leaders, Mr. O'Connel and Mr. Sheil, had instituted what they termed a Catholic Rent, or, in other words, a kind of levy or contribution from parish to parish throughout the kingdom, in aid of the Catholic Association assembled in Dublin. In a just apprehension of the consequences of this general union of the Catholics, thus supported by a kind of settled revenue, the Protestant party in Ireland, and particularly in Dublin and the northern counties, were preparing like counter-unions upon their part; and both parties, with their leaders and badges, were about to array themselves in direct opposition to each other. We have reason to know, from our own observation on the spot, that a very great and general alarm prevailed throughout the country, and that some Protestant families, one in particular of high rank and connexions, actually withdrew from the kingdom. In the vicinity of Dublin an apprehension existed, that in some of the dark nights of winter there would be a general insurrection, and that a great extent of mischief would be accomplished before the English troops could be brought up. Such we can say, from our own knowledge, was the actual state of Ireland, even so late as the year 1826.

Another circumstance added greatly to the misery of Ireland at this period, and to the difficulty of her rulers. It had become a practice, much too frequent, upon the occurrence of even single crimes, to put whole counties out of the pale of the ordinary law; that is to say, to subject them to the summary jurisdiction of a bench of magistrates, and to invest such bench with a power, almost arbitrary, of transportation, without a jury. Under this system, one or two magistrates had only to send a letter to the Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant, stating that, in their opinion, the ordinary administration of the law was not sufficiently vigorous to preserve the security of person and property in their county, and humbly requesting that the local benches of magistrates might be allowed to resort to the extraordinary powers allowed by law. This letter was read before the privy council, upon which, almost as a matter of course, the required proclamation was issued, and the local benches of magistrates in the several districts were authorized to hold courts from day to day, to cause all suspected persons to be brought before them, and, after examining and trying them without a jury, to sentence them, according to their discretion, to transportation to Botany Bay. The mere circumstance of absence from home after sun-set, or before sun-rise, made every man in Ireland liable to transportation for any term which these tribunals might decree, unless he could give what might be deemed a satisfactory

account of himself. When it is added, that, from the absence of the far greater portion of the landed gentlemen of the country, the offices of magistracy fell upon very inferior persons—in many cases upon mere bailiffs and land-stewards, and in almost all cases upon persons very incompetent to exercise even the ordinary functions of a justice of the peace, it may be conceived what must have been the condition of the Irish peasantry under such a system.

There was still a third circumstance under which Ireland was suffering at the commencement of this lieutenancy—the tithe-farming system, and the attempts to keep up the war-rents. Under the former of these circumstances, the state of the poor farmers in Ireland, or, in other words, of the peasantry, was miserable beyond description. The tithes were let out to men who took them like turnpike contractors in England, at the highest bidding, and then levied them at the highest possible rate. As these rates could not be paid, the tithe-farmer issued out process; the expense of which at once ruined a peasant, whose holding, perhaps, did not exceed three acres. It is unnecessary to describe the universal misery which was thus occasioned. The continuance of the high war-rents was a still greater evil. During the war the middle men had become the occupiers of the greater portion of the country, and had let out the farms at a large increase of rent to the immediate

farmer. In order to make this large rent, th farmer himself subdivided his lands into a multitude of small holdings of three, four, and five acres, at five or six pounds an acre. Upon the return of peace, these rents could no longer be made—the immediate farmer, in consequence, first distrained upon his small tenants, and then, perhaps, took to flight with the rents, (or as much as he could get) in his pocket—the middleman next distrained the same tenants for the rent due by the farmer; and the landlord, perhaps, a third time, distrained them for the rents due by the middleman. In this manner, distress and poverty were universal; the gaols were filled, the lands deserted, and landlords, farmers, and peasantry, all alike ruined and insolvent.

Such was the general state of things under which the Marquis of Wellesley became Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and Mr. Goulburn his Secretary. The object of the Government at home, and of the King as its head, were, under such a condition of circumstances, directed to three principal points—the conciliation of parties—the discontinuance of a harsh and compulsory system —and some improvement in the manners of the peasantry of Ireland, in part by a removal of their direct burthens, and in part by a series of measures which should invite and encourage them to habits of industry and good order. A brief view of the means adopted in execution of this purpose, will enable the public to make a just es-

timate of the character and ability of Mr. Goulburn.

In order to accomplish the first end, that of softening the mutual heats of parties against each other, it was the first measure of Mr. Goulburn to abolish party-badges, and to issue a direct order from the Lord Lieutenant, that the public celebration of King William's landing and victory, and particularly the anniversary coronation of his statue, should thereafter be discontinued. Mr. Goulburn saw, that the effect of wearing party badges was only to enkindle and inflame a fierce and emulous feeling, and to exasperate religious differences by superadding the personal pride and competition of individuals. It is in the very nature of the mind to seek and adopt objects of distinction. It is another principle in human nature to become infected with the strong feelings and passions of those around us. Hence, in all ages, and in all nations, badges have always been employed as one of the main means of partisans. Mr. Goulburn, as is well known, had very great difficulty in accomplishing this object; the Corporation of Dublin, always violent on the side of their favourite hero, King William, were indignant at the change proposed, and resented it as a kind of breach of their charter. So strong was their resentment upon this occasion, that all the subsequent acts of the Marquis and Mr. Goulburn, however productive of acknowledged public good, could never compensate, in the eyes of

the corporation, for this one offence; it arrayed almost the whole of the municipal body against them, and a dinner afterwards could be scarcely given, which was not concluded by a toast, symbolically at least, expressive of the dislike of the city.

Another measure of the same effect, and in good part, we believe, for the same purpose, was of a more extraordinary nature. Whilst the Marquis was in England, and, we believe, on a visit to one of his brothers, he had become acquainted with Mrs. Patterson, a lady of great personal accomplishments and of competent fortune, but in religion a Catholic. The noble Marquis was unquestionably pleased with his fair friend and fellow visitor, but, we believe, nothing more, and he left England for Ireland, not only without any engagement, but we presume without a thought of it. It was not, therefore, without some surprise, and certainly not without some satisfaction, that his Majesty's Court and Government became informed, that it was the purpose of the noble Marquis to marry the fair Catholic, and that such was the state of parties in Ireland, that this union would go very far to moderate and satisfy the great body of the people. It must be confessed, that it had this effect, and the country is bound to express its hope, that what so happily conduced to the peace of the kingdom has, in no degree whatever, diminished the domestic peace of the noble patriot. Be this as it may, the Marquis,

like another Codrus, appears, in this respect, to have courageously devoted himself to the public good, and, in a very mature season of life, to have leaped fearlessly into the gulph of matrimony.

Next to this reconciliation of parties, the main object with his Majesty's Government, and, therefore, with Mr. Goulburn, was the discontinuance of the former harsh and compulsory system, and particularly of the loose and discretionary power of magistrates, and of the system of suspending the ordinary laws from year to year. Mr. Goulburn had an example before him in the actual state of Ireland, that excessive harshness of laws renders the minds of men callous, and excites, like our English game laws, a kind of angry and vindictive spirit against the law itself. He had been early taught, that it was altogether inconsistent with the true spirit of legislation to invest the supreme governor, and still less the subordinate magistrates, with a power of suspending the ordinary administration of the law, and acting themselves without the restraint of juries, and without the publicity and responsibility of courts and judges. As an Englishman, he had been taught to hold all such discretionary laws in abhorrence. The best principle of law is, that it is fixed; and it is a fundamental maxim in the British constitution, that it is the office of juries to find the guilt, and of magistrates and judges to declare the law. Upon these principles, the Marquis and Mr. Goulburn rejected all resort to ex-

traordinary measures, and resolved to rely upon the just and temperate administration of the common law. In the Constabulary Act, they added to the vigour and efficacy of the police, and they committed the supervision of the daily peace of the rural districts to this body. If a district was represented to be disaffected, they added more constables, and here and there distributed a stationary police-man. The writer of this memoir had occasion to see some of these police stations; one of them was in the immediate neighbourhood of Mr. Foster's estate, and the occupier of the station (a mere watch-box) was, of course, himself under the daily inspection and supervision of Lord Oriel. Another measure of the same effect was the expurgation of the magistracy; and, as far as it was practicable, the substitution of a better order of men than those who had hitherto filled this important office.

The third aim of the Government was to improve, generally, the condition of the people of Ireland, and particularly of the peasantry. It is impossible to deny, that one of the most lamentable features in the national character of the Irish peasantry is their ferocity—and that this was the cause of the extraordinary severity of the preventive measures employed by the preceding Lords Lieutenants. Doubtless, much of this ferocity is to be attributed to the constant use of raw spirits by the lower classes. This practice, joined to the want of education and subordination, certainly

hardens the heart, and makes men unfeeling and inhuman. They begin by becoming so, in private life, to their wives and families, and soon practise on a larger scale the atrocities they have indulged at home.

In order to apply some remedy to this vice, one of the proposed measures was to encourage the introduction of ale and malt liquors in the room of ardent spirits; and, in order to remove the temptation to the use of spirits, arising from a perverse disposition, and from a kind of angry and vindictive opposition to the English government, the oppressive prosecution of private stills was discouraged. We do not know, in fact, whether the reduction of the spirit duty, and the discontinuance of the vexatious prosecutions, originated with the Marquis and Mr. Goulburn; but, as the administration of Ireland has been manifestly improved in this respect, during the Lieutenancy of the one and the Secretaryship of the other, it is a very reasonable conclusion that the merit of these measures is ascribable to their suggestions. It must, however, be confessed, that the evils of Ireland are too deeply rooted to admit of cure from one or two wise and temperate Lords Lieutenants. So much, however, appears to be certain, that Ireland is greatly indebted to the Marquis Wellesley and Mr. Goulburn, and that they have proved that the system of conciliation is much more effective than that of terror. Public peace will be well bought by some surrender of revenue; in

other words, Ireland is still too highly taxed for general means of payment. Taxes must be always paid by the great body of the people, and in Ireland the great body of the people are but just raised above pauperism. In England, the average size of farms, throughout the kingdom, does not fall short of one hundred and thirty acres—in Ireland, the average size of the farms certainly does not exceed ten acres. Three parts out of four of the whole surface of the kingdom is let out to a tenantry of this quality. There is no capital, and no stock—no trees, no quickset hedges, no gardens, no orchards. To an Englishman first travelling in Ireland, as the writer of this memoir did during the period that Mr. Goulburn was Secrecretary, the scene is beyond description naked and repulsive.

Whilst it is acknowledged that Mr. Goulburn and the Marquis rendered so many services to Ireland, and particularly as to the circumstance of reducing the asperity of parties, and improving the magistracy of the country, it should be added, that they accomplished these objects in the face of the most determined opposition. Not only was the Corporation of Dublin, the most powerful municipal body in the kingdom, directly opposed to this system of lenity and moderation, but even the Irish Privy Council was itself divided, and, we believe, that the utmost difficulty was encountered in carrying the system proposed by the Lord Lieutenant. It is understood, that a new mode is

about to be adopted, and that the Protestant interest is to be raised and supported by a more decided encouragement. Our own opinion is, that the Protestant predominance is entirely safe, whilst moderate counsels are followed; but that such a spirit is now prevalent amongst the great body of the Catholics, that any excessive severity would push them into general insurrection.

Mr. Goulburn's parliamentary course in England has consisted of little more than in bringing in the acts of Parliament, which were required by his duty as Irish Secretary, and, of course, explaining that state and condition of Ireland, which rendered such acts necessary. In the performance of this duty, he exhibited two qualities which have strongly recommended him to the personal favour of his Majesty—a resolute attachment to the established principles in Church and State, and a sober zeal, and regular and persevering industry, in the discharge of the functions of his office. In other words, he became very early marked for a safe and useful man of business, and as one who would not be incompetent for the highest office.

Upon the appointment of the present administration, there existed, as is well known, a point of considerable difficulty, that of reconciling the actual official rank of Mr. Herries, with the avowed pretensions of Mr. Huskisson. It was at length arranged, that Mr. Herries should resign the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer, but that (for

the sake of delicacy towards Mr. Herries) Mr. Goulburn, and not Mr. Huskisson himself, should succeed him. This arrangement was accordingly carried into effect, and Mr. Goulburn has, in consequence, become Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Mr. Goulburn is yet in the prime of life; perhaps, is nearly the youngest man in the administration, with the exception of Mr. Peel. He possesses that degree of talent which renders him highly respectable, without exciting any invidious feeling. He is content to be useful without aspiring to the reputation of an innovator; and if he shall introduce nothing new, he will at least abstain from any thing that is dangerous.

THE RIGHT HON. J. C. HERRIES,

MASTER OF THE MINT.

THIS is another of those gentlemen who owe their advancement in life to their own unwearied industry, and to their possession of the useful talents of a man of business. In the Government there are two kind of offices which must always be sufficiently, if not ably, filled. Those which respect the management of the House of Commons, and those which concern the regular routine of busi-

ness in the government offices, from day to day. The management of the House of Commons requires either the talents of oratorical persuasion, the influence of commanding abilities, or an address and dexterity approaching to something like cunning, acquired only by long experience. In our own times we have seen the lead possessed by each of these characters in its turn. Mr. Pitt governed the House by the influence of his manifest and justly allowed superiority in talent and knowledge; Mr. Canning upheld himself by his pleasing powers of oratory, and by his popular, if not powerful, vein of wit and humour; whilst the Marquis of Londonderry exceeded every British statesman, before or since, by his address and versatility. But in the government offices, nothing of this kind of talent is required; a clear head, a habit of close and unwearied application, a readiness to find resources in little things, and a patient and submissive demeanour towards the successive heads of the department, are the qualities which, after a due probation, raise a man from the humble functions of a clerk of the Treasury to a cabinet minister, and not unfrequently to the office of first minister of the kingdom. At the time we are writing this memoir, one of the first departments in the Treasury is occupied, and most usefully and ably so, by a person who was formerly only a foot-boy; and thence, for good character and conduct, put into a government office as a clerk; and has thence risen to become the most active and useful head

of his department. Can any one reasonably object to such promotion?—Certainly not: it is a rare example of talent in a humble station, and well deserves its reward. We only regret, that before this memoir shall find its way before the public, the individual of whom we are speaking, under his present state, will most probably be removed from all human praise or censure.

Mr. Herries, the subject of this memoir, is the son of the late Mr. Herries, colonel of the London volunteers, a merchant who, in one part of his life, was in great repute. We believe that Mr. Herries, the father, was at one period a contractor with government, and a very opulent man. So much we know, that he was greatly respected in the city, and enjoyed a very considerable reputation and influence amongst his fellow-citizens. We are old enough to remember a large engraving, exhibited in the shop windows of the metropolis, in which Mr. Herries was represented on horseback, and in full military appointments, as the colonel of the London volunteers; the clouds above being represented in that colour and arrangement, as if they were dividing in admiration of the gallant horseman.

Mr. Herries, the Master of the Mint, was the son of this gentleman, and was born about the year 1770. As his father was in opulent circumstances, young Herries received the education which belonged to his condition of life and circumstances. At a suitable age, he probably entered

his father's counting-house, and assisted him in his mercantile concerns. In this line of life he would probably have continued to pass the remainder of his days, if an event had not occurred which totally changed the nature of his destination.

It is scarcely necessary to relate, that the immense drain of money for the continent, in the early years of the war, and the consequent suspension of cash payments by the Bank of England, not only greatly embarrassed the councils of the kingdom, but, in a greater or smaller degree, affected every merchant and trader in the empire; and more particularly those whose dealings were upon a large scale. Merchants of this description necessarily required large discounts, and the system of trading had so accommodated itself to the practice of the Bank of England, in giving these discounts weekly, that almost every merchant reckoned upon the amount of his discounts as the amount of his ready and available capital. Nothing, therefore, could equal the distress which ensued upon the first restriction of discounts by the Bank. The Milan decrees followed, and whatever trade still existed, was for a time forced out of its proper channel. The consequence of these and other circumstances was, that some of the greatest mercantile houses became embarrassed, and, if not actually ruined, were at least compelled to wind up their concerns, and suspend all further trading, from the apprehension of greater losses. The elder Mr. Herries was one of these traders; he

saw it in vain to struggle against the unpromising aspect of foreign and domestic trade. Some of the greater merchants, who, in the former periods of the war, had liberally assisted Mr. Pitt, by making advances on the public loans, had recourse to Mr. Pitt for his aid to them in return, and, with more generosity than political prudence, Mr. Pitt afforded it to some of them; Mr. Herries was not amongst this fortunate number, and therefore retired from trade altogether.

In consequence of this untoward result, the younger Mr. Herries appears to have abandoned all thoughts of becoming a merchant, and to have availed himself of some connexions of his father to procure the office of a clerk in one of the government establishments. From this humble beginning he has gradually risen to the high office he now holds. During the changes which occurred some years since, the office of one of the joint Secretaries of the Treasury became vacant, and, in consideration of his services, he was appointed to this honourable and lucrative situation.

In executing the arduous duties of this office, Mr. Herries continued to entitle himself to the express approbation of his Majesty, and to the confidence and esteem of the heads of the department. About two years since, a new arrangement of the public accounts was introduced, the merit of which, we believe, belonged to Mr. Herries. According to this new mode, the national accounts are now methodised, so as to be more easily col-

lated and understood, and so as to exhibit, at least to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Lords of the Treasury, a more simple and distinct view of the comparative productiveness of two or more years. It is still, however, candid to add, that even this new mode affords but too much facility for concealing the true character of the revenue, when any minister shall be inclined to adopt this expedient. When it is considered, that the average produce of the revenue exceeds one million weekly, and that the accounts are made up quarterly and yearly, it is manifest that any aspect whatever may be given to these accounts, by taking a week or two in advance, that is to say, by the system of anticipation. Another cause of endless confusion and embarrassment, when we come to the collation of the revenue of two or more years, is the consolidation of two or more branches of duties, or, as has lately occurred, their being transfered from one head of revenue to another. One folly, however, too common with former Secretaries, Mr. Herries has had the good sense entirely to avoid, that of an exactness so absurd as to impart to the whole account an air of ridicule or contrivance. In the former annual accounts, for example, the produce of the revenue was said to amount to so many millions, so many shillings, and so many *farthings;* in the recent accounts, the shillings and farthings are wholly omitted.

Another duty of the Secretaries of the Treasury is to assist and advise the first Lord of the Trea-

sury in the disposal of the patronage of the office, and to make such a distribution of it as may satisfy the friends and adherents of the government, and thus keep together the influence, without which matters would not proceed to the mutual satisfaction of the Minister and the members of the House of Commons. It would be a want of candour to affect any reserve upon this head—the simple fact is, that the members of the House of Commons act and feel in this respect like other gentlemen, and expect friendly returns where they have rendered friendly services. Where, in their general politics, they support Government, they expect that the good things of Government should be distributed in preference among them and their families; and it would be difficult to find any just objection to such pretensions. If one man can discharge the duties of a public office as well as another, what should prevent, we would ask, a first Lord of the Treasury from bestowing such office upon his friend, or the son of his friend, in preference to his adversary, or a stranger? In practice, the difficulty is to reconcile the conflicting claims of the friends of Government; and a very brief explanation will point out the trouble and vexation of an active Secretary of the Treasury, as regards this head of patronage. It will shew, likewise, how very few places any Minister can actually bestow.

The patronage of the first Lord of the Treasury consists in nominating the Commissioners of the

six public Boards and their Secretaries; that is to say, the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, the Commissioners of the Board of Admiralty, the Commissioners of the Board of Control, and those of Customs, Excise, and Stamps. The number of these Commissioners, and of their Secretaries, may amount, for all six boards, to about thirty; the salaries varying from twelve hundred and fifty to fifteen hundred pounds *per annum* for each. These are all the offices which any Minister has to bestow on gentlemen who are not lawyers or clergymen. Now, if it be considered that every Minister, upon his own accession to office, finds all these thirty places filled, and therefore that he has none of these offices to bestow, except as they fall in, that is to say, about two in the year; and if it be further considered, that such Minister may have brothers, brothers-in-law, nephews, &c. of his own, it will easily be understood, how difficult it must be to satisfy the innumerable applications made for every office as it falls. When it is further considered, that almost every nobleman, and every member of Parliament, who supports the Minister by his vote, (to say nothing of the numerous connexions of his own family, and those of his immediate and personal friends), are all in the list of applicants for every place as it falls; it may be easily understood, not only what must be the embarrassment of the Minister and his Secretaries, but what a forlorn hope, what an unpromising lottery, is the pursuit of place and

patronage. If this memoir should fall into the hands of such an inexperienced aspirant, let him weigh what we have said, and act upon the result. To say all in one word, a Minister, who should remain such only seven years, has absolutely nothing to give to any mere gentleman, any unprofessional man, beyond what he reserves for the members of his family. In that time, perhaps, two places may fall in the Excise, two in the Customs, two in the Stamps and Taxes, one perhaps in the Board of Control, and one in the Treasury—eight or nine in all; and let any of us then put this question to ourselves, whether, supposing we were the Minister, we should find it necessary to resort to strangers to fill these nine offices, or whether we could not do it more to our own satisfaction by conferring them on our sons, our nephews, our brothers, our sisters' husbands, or wives' brothers, or some of our other relations, connexions, or daily friends? Such, in a word, is the nature of patronage—such the game, and so poor the chances.

That we may conclude this view of Ministerial patronage, let us briefly add, that there are two other branches of patronage belonging to the first Minister; that is to say, his legal patronage, and his church patronage. Under the head of legal patronage, the first Lord of the Treasury appoints the Attorney and Solicitor-General, the twelve Judges, the five or six Welch Judges, and the Chief Justice of Chester—in all, about twenty legal situations. If seven of these become vacant

in as many years, it is a fair average, and therefore the same general reasoning applies—how few are the places and how innumerable the applicants.

In the Church, the first Lord of the Treasury has the appointment of the Bishops and Deans—twenty-four Bishops, and probably as many Deans. This, in fact, is his best patronage; but is that perhaps which he has it least in his power to bestow. When almost every ducal family has not less than one member in the Church, and, it may be almost asserted, every cabinet counsellor has a son, nephew, or brother in orders; when every nobleman around the person of the King himself is upon the watch for these occasions; what is to be expected by those, who, upon the faith of learning only, or the confidence of mere ordinary interest, embark on a venture of this kind?

With respect to the minor patronage of the Treasury, it consists in the appointment of clerks, &c. One sentence will explain the value of these appointments. Their average value, for the first seven years' service, is about one hundred and twenty pounds *per annum;* for the next seven about two hundred and forty; for the third seven, three hundred and fifty; after which they rise to five hundred, where they stop. A very few of them, who become the head clerks of the department, may, after thirty or thirty-five years' service, reach to eight hundred and fifty, or nine hundred, but, we believe, this has now ceased.

Such, together with the arrangement and me-

thodising the national accounts, is the business and daily duty of a Secretary of the Treasury; that is to say, the supervision of the finance department, the distribution of the patronage, and the correspondence with the other boards. In the management of this business, Mr. Herries, whilst Secretary, contrived to give so much general satisfaction, and to perform his duties so efficiently, that, upon the vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr. Canning, he was appointed to succeed him as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

It does not belong to the writer of this memoir to enter into a narrative of the circumstances by which his Majesty was induced to change his purpose, and to remove Mr. Herries to the lucrative and honourable office which he now holds; suffice it to say, that Mr. Herries had the good sense and prudence to submit to the exigency of circumstances, and to the necessities of his party. He readily conceded to the wishes of the Duke of Wellington, and, resigning in favour of Mr. Goulburn, was himself appointed Master of the Mint.

Mr. Herries is a married man, and had the good fortune to obtain a lady with a considerable property. His quiet, and regular, and unaffected demeanour, and his sufficient and unostentatious discharge of the duties of his office, have made him many friends, and never, as we have heard, one adversary. He has, in every respect, our best wishes.

RIGHT HON. GEORGE TIERNEY.

WHILE treating of public men, it has always been our wish and aim to conduct our narratives and lucubrations with equal delicacy and decorum. It is not difficult to be lavish of either indiscriminate censure or applause, but it is no easy matter to hold a just medium between the two extremes, and praise without adulation, or blame without malice. Certain characters are to be decided upon at first sight, but others require the test of time, and even invoke the pressure of Ithuriel's spear, before the public are enabled to form a just estimate of them.

Mr. Tierney was originally intended for the bar, and became in due time a member of one of the inns of court. Like many men of talents, on their outset in life, he was perhaps discouraged from pursuing a career which leads to the first honours of the state, from a consideration of the few prizes, to the many blanks, in the lottery of Westminster-Hall. This has indeed become proverbial, even among the young men of the profession, who quaintly, but emphatically observe on this occasion, "that many are called, but few are chosen." This, however, did not appear likely to be the case with the subject of this memoir, as he manifestly possessed all the talents necessary for obtaining either wealth or preferment in the line

just alluded to, and has always exhibited that sedulous attention to business, that close and unabated ardour towards the attainment of a favourite object, together with that species of practical oratory, which could not have failed to attract clients, and ensure success.

But another destiny awaited Mr. Tierney, and instead of contentions in the King's Bench and Common Pleas, he was fated to fight battles in the neighbouring field of St. Stephen's Chapel. The object, indeed, was the same in both—the hopes of celebrity and preferment; nor was the scene, in a local and literal sense, far distant from his pristine occupations, as he only changed *below*, for *above* stairs, and pleaded in a plain coat and short hair, instead of appearing in a gown and tie wig.

Having determined then to become a politician instead of a lawyer, it was necessary to look around for a borough which he might represent. His first choice was unfortunate, for he pitched on one then noted in the annals of corruption. This was Colchester, a town famous for the length and vigour of its contests. So eminently expensive, indeed, did an election at this place at length become, that, in the course of no longer a period than thirteen years, three different candidates were completely ruined, their misfortunes being at the same time chiefly attributable to this event. At least the plain matter of fact is, that the late Mr. Fordyce, the celebrated banker, Mr. Robert

Mayne, who followed the same calling, and Mr. Christopher Potter, who was supposed to have acquired great opulence as a contractor, all appeared in the list of bankrupts soon after the conclusion of their respective contests for this immaculate place!

Not in the least intimidated by the fate of his precursors, and wishing, no doubt, to shame them into virtue, (for he neither possessed the power nor perhaps the inclination to bribe them to his views), Mr. Tierney stood on what is termed the popular interest. He accordingly appeared twice a candidate, but contending against superior wealth, although not superior talents, he was twice discomfited. This produced two different petitions, one against Sir George Jackson singly, and another against the same baronet in conjunction with Mr. R. Thornton, the latter a member of the opulent and respectable family of that name, a branch of which has sat in two successive parliaments subsequently to that period, as Mr. Tierney's colleague for Southwark.

The latter election (in 1790) was expensive, and the contest promised to be accompanied with the most serious inconvenience to the young Barrister; but a great man, then considered as the head of opposition, is supposed to have stepped forward, and to have undertaken to defray expences incurred by the support of a cause which he warmly and zealously patronised. This was productive of an extraordinary event; for the late Mr.

Albany Wallis, who had acted as the agent upon the occasion, having endeavoured to *refresh* this nobleman's memory, after he had changed his politics and obtained a high and lucrative situation, by means of a bill in Chancery, he himself was reduced to eternal silence, it being deemed highly indecorous by the Chancellor, to make disclosures likely to bring the representation of the country into disrepute.

Notwithstanding the sinistrous events attendant on the Colchester election, a favourable opinion of the talents and integrity of Mr. Tierney had gone forth, and a borough, in the immediate vicinity of the metropolis, seemed at length to stretch out its willing arms in order to receive him. Southwark had formerly been supposed, if not liable to ministerial direction, at least to be susceptible of ministerial influence; but such was the odium attached to Mr. Pitt, at one period of his former administration, in consequence of either real or supposed dereliction of his principles, that it was determined by a numerous and respectable body of inhabitants to bring in an opposition member, and this, too, in a manner that can alone render any member independent—by a contest free of expense.

Accordingly, at the general election, in 1796, a noble and constitutional example was exhibited; and such was the fervour of popular zeal, that a considerable sum was raised, no small part of which was subscribed in single guineas, by those

who could afford no more, for the purpose of supporting the subject of this memoir. But he had this time also to contend with an opulent rival, who happened to be accidentally connected with himself by marriage. This was Mr. George Woodford Thellusson, who, either not aware of an express statute, or thinking, perhaps, that it might still continue to lie dormant, made use not only of all his influence, but even part of his wealth, in *treating* such of the electors as would condescend to be indebted to the bounty of a candidate.

It is not to be greatly wondered at, therefore, that the *number* on the poll-book was in favour of the latter; but Mr. Tierney was not deterred by this circumstance. On the contrary, feeling himself on strong ground upon this occasion, he not only presented a petition to the House of Commons, complaining of undue proceedings, but, recurring to the habits of his former life, he himself acted as his own counsel. He was seen constantly in the committee, arranging the business, examining evidence, quoting precedents, and displaying a keenness of investigation, that at once surprised and pleased all who heard him. Without the assistance of any of the bar, he himself contended against its veterans, and, whether he attacked or defended, exhibited a degree of masterly skill, as well as a masculine style of oratory, which not only overwhelmed, but even confounded his antagonists.

On Saturday, November 12, 1796, Sir Edward

Knatchbull, Bart. M. P. for the county of Kent, who was chairman of the select committee appointed to try and decide on the merits of the petition, complaining of an undue election, informed the House that the said select committee had determined

"That George Woodford Thellusson, Esq. is not duly elected a burgess to serve in the present Parliament for the borough of Southwark."

A new election having taken place, Mr. Thellusson once more possessed the majority on the poll, and a new petition was presented by Mr. Whitbread, on the part of Mr. Tierney, on Tuesday, November 29th, complaining of the new election, the result of which was, that Mr. Tierney was declared the member.

Mr. Tierney was thus fairly seated in the British Parliament, by the mere operation of the *treating act;* and the laws and the constitution triumphed. The decision of this question was not only of the utmost importance to the freedom of election, but to the best interests of morality, and many good men, who had witnessed with horror the drunkenness and debauchery of modern elections, rejoiced to behold such an odious custom subverted.

Mr. Tierney now became not only a constant attendant on the house, but a frequent debater on all the great and important objects brought forward for the consideration of the Commons. In the spring of 1797, when all payments in *money* at the Bank of England were suspended by order of

council, and Mr. Pitt moved for a bill to enable that corporate body to issue twenty-shilling notes, Mr. Fox opposed the whole of the plans lately adopted, "as a general breach of faith," while Mr. Tierney, at the same time, considered this particular measure "as affording an opportunity for the most pernicious species of jobbing and speculation."

On the debate about the *loyalty loan*, when Mr. Pitt, after stating that the discount had risen to fourteen and even fifteen *per cent.*, proposed to bestow on each person five pounds in the hundred, in consequence of the depreciation of stock, although "he allowed they had no claim of right," he was opposed by several commoners, and particularly the member for Southwark.

Mr. Tierney also, in the course of the same session, objected to the measure for preventing and punishing the seduction of his Majesty's sea and land forces. He observed upon this occasion, "That he had thought it his duty to oppose the leave for bringing in the bill, and having in that opposition stood alone, he felt himself called upon to say a few words. The cordial support he had given to the address to his Majesty, would prevent the possibility of any improper construction being put upon his motives for what he had done; but having cheerfully joined in an abhorrence of all violent and disorderly conduct which might endanger the peace and happiness of the kingdom, he could not at the same time but recollect that, as a member of Parliament, he was bound to see that,

under pretence of repressing violent measures, no unjustifiable means should be adopted."

In the course of the summer of 1797, the price of butchers' meat experienced an alarming rise, and Mr. Tierney, who was now considered as a man of business, brought up the report of the committee, of which he was chairman, on a bill to prevent "the forestalling and regrating of cattle." This was opposed by Mr. Dundas, who contended that the measure was founded on ideas long since exploded, and that it militated directly against the principles laid down by Dr. Adam Smith. Mr. Tierney, in reply, "complained that these objections had not been urged sooner, as they might have prevented all the trouble of the inquiry which had taken place. He did not like the mode of reasoning employed, nor did he know what pretension there was to *new lights* on the subject. The House had come to a resolution in 1764, that the high price of provisions was owing to the laxness of the laws against forestalling; in 1767, this resolution was contradicted by one directly opposite; in 1770, all the laws against forestalling had been repealed; twenty-five years' experience had intervened, and the price of meat had been found to increase. A committee last year had decidedly pronounced the high price of provisions to be owing to forestalling, so that the lights of the House on that subject were against the principle of reasoning assumed by the right honourable Secretary.

"He wished to appeal to facts, notwithstanding the authority of Dr. Smith, however high he rated him. Meat was one penny, or one penny half-penny cheaper per pound sixty miles from London, than it was in the capital; and to what cause was it to be ascribed? The cause was, that Smithfield market was a mockery, for there were places at a small distance from London, which formed a kind of middle market, where the salesman and the jobber, or the carcase butcher, in collusion, settled the prices to the disadvantage of the grazier and the farmer, who were thus deprived of competition in the market, and to the great distress of the public, who were thus compelled to pay, not only the per centage profit to the jobber, but whatever extortion he might also please to add.

"These plain facts he conceived to be better than the speculative reasoning of Adam Smith, whose arguments, however substantial they might be, the public could not feed upon. If an open trade were so necessary for the butchers, why was it not thought equally so for the bakers? and how happened it, that the legislature did not suffer them to sell a quartern loaf at tenpence or a shilling, as they pleased, since the market must so regularly find its level? If the poorer classes of the people were to rise in a mass, on account of the high price of meat, he suspected the right honourable gentleman would then prefer the riot act to all the reasonings of Adam Smith. The salesman and butcher, and the clerk of the market, had

all agreed that forestalling was the sole cause of the dearth of butchers' meat; and he did not see how the bill could injure the grazier, since its object was to allow every one to send his cattle to Smithfield market. He wished at least that it might pass for a limited time, because, if the effects of it were not good, it could be easily altered or repealed. There were scenes of misery among the poorer classes, in consequence of the high price of meat, of which few gentlemen could have an adequate conception; and he hoped they would reflect upon the necessity of adopting some regulation. He wished, for God's sake, therefore, that they would not scout the bill, but either lend their assistance to render it unobjectionable, or suggest something better in its stead. It was not consistent with humanity to get rid of it, by telling the poor that the market would find its level, for they might as well tell them at once that they were not hungry." Notwithstanding these arguments, the bill was opposed by the Secretary at War (Mr. Windham), and the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Pitt), and it was thrown out by a majority of thirty-two.

Several of the principal members of opposition deeming the war unjust, and perceiving themselves unable to stem the torrent, had retired in a body from the House. Mr. Tierney, on this memorable occasion, acted a different part. Thinking it his duty to remain, and support the cause of his constituents and his country, he manfully, although

almost singly, opposed such measures as appeared to him to trench either on the policy or the rights of the nation; and it was allowed on all hands, that he in general acquitted himself with no common share of discretion, talents, and ability.

In one of his replies to Mr. Pitt, who appeared to be much hurt at his *Philippic*, Mr. Tierney observed, "that the right honourable gentleman had got by heart a set of fine flourishing speeches, on purpose to chastise any body who should presume to doubt the excellence of his plan; and that this strange rant was meant for some other person, for in my life (added he) I never uttered a sentence in this House for or against the system or principles of the French;" and he concluded by observing, "that if the minister wished to make another attack upon any one whom he was disposed to crush, he should remember that a man might be in that House in the same situation as if he were to live in a mill—he would be a good deal frightened at first, but would soon become accustomed to the noise."

In March, 1798, Mr. Tierney gave his most cordial support to the bill brought in by Mr. Dundas, "to enable his Majesty more effectually to provide for the defence and security of the realm;" and in reply to a coarse and unwarrantable sneer on the part of a member in the neighbourhood of the Treasury-bench, he added, "that no part or action of his life could justify that honourable gentleman in insinuating, that he was not animated by as cor-

dial a zeal for the welfare and prosperity of his country as any man who lived in it."

On the debate on the introduction of a bill, "for preventing the printing and publishing of newspapers by persons unknown, &c." the new act was warmly opposed by Mr. Tierney; but he was at the same time candid enough to bear testimony against an attack which had been made on the humanity of those whom he had opposed with such indefatigable zeal. "If cruelty of any kind (said he) has been employed against the French prisoners, I can safely say, that the executive government of this country ought to be exonerated from such an imputation; nay more, I am persuaded, that no cause for making so gross a charge against the humanity of Englishmen does exist."

In the spring of 1798 we find him voting for the suspension of the *habeas corpus act*, in consequence "of the preamble of the bill being founded on the verdict of a grand jury;" he soon after supported General Walpole, in his inquiry into the conduct of the assembly of Jamaica, relative to the transportation of the Maroons; and in the summer of the same year, in consequence of the melancholy aspect of affairs in Ireland, he declared, "that the minister ought to come down to the House clothed in sackcloth and ashes, to find public affairs in such a critical state in the fifth year of the war, and after an expenditure of about two hundred millions of money."

On the meeting of Parliament, however, he most cheerfully acquiesced in the motion for the thanks of the House to Rear-admiral Lord Nelson, and affirmed, "that no man was more anxious than himself for the general security of the empire, and that no man ever felt more warmth and animation than he did, whenever our navy was triumphant."

In June, 1799, we find Mr. Tierney moving certain resolutions respecting the finances of the country, with a view of confuting and overturning the positions of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, relative to the amount of the funded debt, public revenue, &c. "The result of all these resolutions (said he) is, that in seven years we have doubled the national debt; that we have doubled the permanent taxes; that, by unprecedented good fortune, we have seen the revenue amount to a sum beyond even the right honourable gentleman's (Mr. Pitt's) most sanguine expectations; that, at the rate we are going on, we have in this one year to meet an outgoing of sixty million; that if peace should arrive at the end of 1799, the peace establishment to November, 1803, must amount to thirty-three millions; but if the war should continue to the end of 1800, that then there must be an annual outgoing, during the first six years after the cessation of hostilities, of thirty-three millions."

It added not a little to the reputation of Mr. Tierney's financial talents, that when Mr. Pitt moved certain resolutions, by way of overturning those alluded to above, he fairly confessed, that he

had but little to say against the correctness of the statements propounded by the honourable member, and could only object to the melancholy deductions which he drew from his premises.

A little after this, the member for Southwark supported Mr. Sheridan in a motion for an inquiry into the failure of the expedition against Holland; he also opposed the proposition made by Mr. Pitt, to vote the sum of five hundred thousand pounds, to enable his Majesty to make such advances to the Emperor of Germany as might be necessary for ensuring a vigorous co-operation, &c. Upon the latter occasion, he remarked on the impolicy of sending so much money out of the kingdom, more especially at a period when, in consequence of the increased improbability of success, such a sacrifice could not serve any good purpose.

In the spring of 1800, when the grand question relative to the union with Ireland came to be debated, he declared, "That, in the abstract, he had no objection to that measure; but, from the information he had received, he did not entertain the smallest doubt that the sense of the people was against it." In the course of the same year he moved for leave to bring in a bill "to limit the duration of the tax upon income," a financial measure which had by this time become odious to the nation; and throughout the whole of that, and the succeeding session of Parliament, he evinced a degree of perseverance, industry, and attention, which have seldom been equalled, and rarely surpassed.

On the change of ministry, and the measures that immediately took place, for the purpose of effecting a speedy peace, some of the grand objects of Mr. Tierney's opposition were effected, and from that moment his zeal sensibly abated. In consequence of this, some insinuations were thrown out against his conduct in the Whig Club, and many of the most strenuous of his supporters abandoned him on the ensuing election, in which, for the *first time,* no *ministerial influence* was made use of in opposition to his interest! He was opposed, however, by a gentleman who had been created a baronet during the administration of Mr. Pitt, and a violent contest ensued; but he was at length returned member for Southwark by a small majority of his constituents, although a petition was presented on the part of the unsuccessful candidate.

An event occurred soon after, that gave rise to much speculation: this was the appointment of the member for Southwark to a high and important situation in the new and short-lived administration, formed by Mr. Addington. On this occasion, Mr. Tierney was nominated to the lucrative office of Treasurer of the Navy, which produces the sum of four thousand pounds a-year, and had at the same time the satisfaction of placing his brother-in-law as his deputy, with a salary, &c. of fifteen hundred.

It would be highly improper to omit here an incident which occurred in the life of the subject of

this memoir, and which at the time gave rise to much conversation.

During the debate on the bill "for suspending seamen's protections," Friday, May 25, 1798, Mr. Pitt was thrown off his guard, and with a marked impropriety declared, "That he considered Mr. Tierney's opposition to it as proceeding from a wish to impede the service of the country." The gentleman thus pointed at immediately rose, and called the Chancellor of the Exchequer to order. He appealed to the House to say whether such terms should be used, and concluded by invoking the protection of the Speaker.

Mr. Addington, who then occupied the chair, observed, "That if the House should consider the words which had been used, as conveying a personal reflection on the honourable gentleman, they were in that point of view to be considered as 'unparliamentary and disorderly.' It was for the House to decide on their application, and they would wait in the mean time for the explanation of the right honourable gentleman."

Mr. Pitt, instead of apologizing, as was expected, immediately said, "If he were called on to *explain away* any thing which he had said, the House might wait long enough for such an explanation! He was of opinion, that the honourable gentleman was opposing a necessary measure for the defence of the country, and therefore he should neither explain nor retract any particle of what he had said on the subject."

The matter here ended, so far as the proceedings of Parliament were concerned; but the dispute had nearly been productive of the most serious consequences; for Mr. Tierney having sent his friend Mr. George Walpole with a message, a meeting took place on Sunday forenoon on Putney-heath; when the ground, which was about fifteen paces, having been measured, and a shot exchanged by each, Mr. Pitt put an end to the affair by firing his remaining pistol in the air.

The following is the account, published by the seconds on the succeeding morning, May 28, as it appeared in one of the newspapers:

"We are authorised to state, that in consequence of what passed on Friday last, (which produced a challenge from Tierney), Mr. Pitt, accompanied by Mr. Ryder, and Mr. Tierney, accompanied by Mr. George Walpole, met at three o'clock yesterday afternoon on Putney-heath.

"After some ineffectual attempts on the part of the seconds to prevent further proceedings, the parties took the ground at the distance of twelve paces. A case of pistols was fired at the same moment without effect; a second case was also fired in the same manner, Mr. Pitt firing his pistol in the air; the seconds then jointly interfered, and insisted that the matter should go no farther, it being their decided opinion that sufficient satisfaction had been given, and that the business was ended with perfect honour to both parties."

May 28, 1798.

During the administration of Mr. Pitt, it was not possible for Mr. Tierney to act in concert with that gentleman, not only because the Chancellor of the Exchequer could bear

"No brother near the throne,"

but also because the war which he had so warmly patronized, and the principles which he had so zealously broached and maintained, were in direct opposition to the declared sentiments and opinions of the latter gentleman. On the change of ministry, however, and the conclusion of peace that ensued soon after that measure, those restraints ceased, and Mr. Tierney, as has been already observed, became a member of the new cabinet. On this occasion he was not only nominated to the office of Treasurer of the Navy, but obtained a seat at the council-board.

In consequence of his official appointment, he soon after became Lieutenant-colonel *commandant* of the Somerset-house *corps*, consisting of the clerks and domestics appertaining to that establishment. He also obtained the same rank in a regiment raised among his constituents, in the borough of Southwark.

We have already seen Mr. Tierney in the character of a financier in the House of Commons, and we are now to take notice of two publications of his on this subject. The first is entitled, "A Letter to the Right Honourable Henry Dundas,

on the Situation of the East India Company." In this, which appeared in 1791, in an anonymous shape, he considered the company under a variety of different points of view: "as a society of adventurers, who, though they nominally trade upon a capital of five millions, employ about fifteen, and possess an income, from various foreign colonies, of about six millions sterling. In Asia, (it is added), they are sovereigns; in England they are merchants: but although these terms apply to their different capacities, the usual acceptation of them must not be adopted, for the sovereignty is not supported by the trade, but the trade by the sovereignty; and the revenues of Bengal are considered as only valuable to the amount by which they fill the warehouses in Leadenhall-street." He then proceeds to state the income and expenditure in India during the last four, and calculates the diminution of debt during the four preceding years, both abroad and at home, at a far less sum than what had been stated in the budget of the minister for Indian affairs.

This produced a reply on the part of George Anderson, A. M. Accountant to the Commissioners for the affairs of India, a young man who, by his talents and industry, had risen from the situation of a farmer's boy to a confidential and lucrative employment. Mr. Tierney immediately published a rejoinder, intitled "A Letter to the Right Honourable Henry Dundas, President of the Board of Control, on the Statement of the Affairs of the

East India Company, lately published by George Anderson, Esq. Accomptant to the Commissioners for the Affairs of India, by George Tierney, Esq."

On this occasion he frankly acknowledges, that he has committed several mistakes in his first letter, "which arose not from any mis-statements on his part, but from unavoidable circumstances, such as being obliged to take the accounts of Bombay, Bengal, and Prince of Wales's Island on estimate, no actual account having been then received." It appears, however, that the error committed on this occasion did not exceed the sum of £400,000 which is a mere trifle when the total amount is taken into consideration! "If the commissioners for the affairs of India, at the head of which you so ably preside, (says Mr. Tierney, addressing himself to Mr. Dundas, still feel confident in the strength and accuracy of those accounts which they have, by their accountant, given to the public, they can have no objection to the appointment of a parliamentary committee; if not, we must continue in doubt, whether the company be thriving or bankrupts; and all we can be certain of will be, that the patronage which, through the medium of the court of directors, administration enjoys, is found quite enough to satisfy their present demands, and much too great to be exposed to the hazard of any investigation."

Since the Whig ministry, in the year 1806, Mr. Tierney has been always in opposition, with the

exception of the short interval of Mr. Canning's administration. He has again returned to these patriotic ranks, and appears destined to finish his days amongst them. He is undoubtedly a man of distinguished ability, and particularly in finance; but has now fought so many fields, and run so many hard chaces, that his time is now nearly over. He has still, however, the spirit of the old hunter; he no sooner learns that the hounds are in the field, and hears their opening cry, than he starts with more zeal than strength, and, with a feeble, but well-intentioned cheer, encourages them to their work.

LORD COLCHESTER.

THE Right Honourable Charles Abbot, now Lord Colchester, was born in the year 1757, being the second son of Dr. Abbot, of Colchester. At an early period of life he was sent to Westminster school, where he soon distinguished himself in such a manner, as, in addition to considerable industry, to afford the promise of future merit. The late Empress of Russia at that period attracted the attention of all Europe; and the juvenile student, dazzled by the blaze of glory with which Catharine was surrounded, addressed some Latin verses to her Imperial Majesty, who, in return,

presented him with a gold medal, by means of her Ambassador at the Court of St. James's.

He was afterwards sent to Oxford, and *matriculated* a member of Christ Church, which has produced many great men, and where he was noticed on account of his intrinsic merit. He took a degree there; and his picture, in his robes as Speaker, at this moment decorates the hall of his *alma mater*, having been placed, in 1804, among the worthies of his college.

When he came of age, Mr. Abbot found himself in possession of a considerable fortune. Notwithstanding this, he entered himself of one of the inns of court, and being designed for the Chancery bar, attended the chambers of an eminent practitioner. After the usual preliminary forms, he was at length called by the society, on the rolls of which he had been admitted, to what is technically termed the degree of an *utter barrister*. Thus qualified, he went the circuits in the usual manner, and, as we have been informed, acted as junior counsel to Mr. Erskine on the celebrated trial of the Dean of St. Asaph, respecting which, although some demur occurred on the part of Mr. Justice Buller, about the manner of recording the verdict, they finally triumphed.

Notwithstanding he rose to considerable practice in the Court of Chancery, Mr. Abbot did not seem in the road to attain either the honours or the emoluments of the profession. He however obtained, about this period, the place of Clerk of the

Rules in the Court of King's Bench; and we soon after find him a candidate for a seat in Parliament, on which occasion he was favoured with the friendly offices of the late Duke of Leeds. His first efforts were not immediately successful, but he was not dismayed, and he has lived to witness the result of arduous and well-directed industry.

Mr. Abbot stood for Helstone, in Cornwall, at the general election, in 1790. At this epoch, no less than four candidates disputed the representation of that ancient borough, and a double return ensued. A new charter had been granted by his late Majesty, the validity of which was contested, upon this occasion, by the members of the old corporation, who claimed under a charter of Elizabeth, confirmed by Charles I. That same body had already obtained a decision of a committee of the House of Commons in its favour, and, on this occasion, thought fit to renew its pretensions on the same grounds as before, but with inferior success.

In 1796, Mr. Abbot, who had been seated, after some delay, and an appeal to a committee, was re-elected for Helstone, in conjunction with Lord Francis Godolphin Osborne, whose family possessed considerable influence in the borough. In 1802, he was nominated both for Woodstock and Heytesbury, and having thus an option, he chose the former, with which he had been connected for some years, as Recorder.

But although, as has been already hinted, Mr.

Abbot does not appear to have been very zealous to distinguish himself in the courts of justice, yet he was not inattentive to those professional advantages which are derived from a legal education. We accordingly find him, as a legislator, producing a remedy for a grievance which had long been complained of, namely, the defective state of the promulgation of the statutes.

Had the ideas of Mr. Abbot, in respect to reforming and improving the diction of the acts of parliament, been fully carried into execution, they would have proved a most excellent accompaniment to their better promulgation; but he was precluded by a variety of circumstances from completing his plan. He however recommended it "as a practicable thing to the executive government, upon the experience of the laws of the American Congress; which are so simple, perspicuous, and comprehensive, as to be intelligible by persons of the meanest capacity, while they are perfectly fitted for the purpose intended."

In 1797 and 1798 we find Mr. Abbot acting as chairman of the select committee of finance, and presenting a number of important resolutions in its name, which have proved highly beneficial, by being enacted in the form of statutes.

When Mr. Pitt first proposed the income tax, that measure was warmly canvassed by the members in opposition; but it was on the other hand ably defended by the subject of this memoir on the following grounds:

1. As operating more equally than any other tax.

2. As sanctioned by a celebrated act in the reign of King William.

3. As being comprehensive in all its details, and affording immediate relief against the possible oppression of any of those who might act under its authority.

4. On account of the economical mode of collection.

5. On account of preventing the increase of permanent taxation.

It must be confessed, however, that it never was, and never can be popular in a free country, as it bereaves the subjects of all *option.*

In 1799, Mr. Abbot was enabled, from his former professional pursuits, to be uncommonly serviceable on a question relative to the "expired and expiring laws." On this occasion he observed, that many acts had been renewed, which ought to have been permitted to fall into oblivion, while others had been suffered to expire, although there was a manifest necessity for their continuance. Among the latter, he instanced the power of the crown to summon Parliament, and call out the militia, upon any sudden occurrence of *rebellion* or *invasion,* certain temporary acts relative to bankruptcy and insolvency, &c. &c. "These mischiefs," he added, "had at times affected the administration of justice, as some criminal convicts had been made to undergo severities in the execution of their sen-

tences upon the supposed authority of laws, which in fact had long ceased to have any existence."

He accordingly proposed the appointment of a committee to inquire into, and regulate this abuse.

An amendment in the laws respecting forfeiture in cases of treason, the melioration of the King's civil list, the consideration of the public records, together with the very proper regulation of charging public accountants with the payment of interest, were all schemes which either originated with, or received the countenance and assistance of Mr. Abbot.

Having thus proved himself a man of business, Mr. Abbot was found extremely useful, and at length entrusted with situations of equal delicacy and responsibility.

His first public office was that of Principal Secretary of State in Ireland, under the administration of the Earl of Hardwicke; he was also one of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, and a privy counsellor of that kingdom. After distinguishing himself in these important stations, during a very critical period, a still more brilliant prospect opened to him in his native country. Sir John Mitford, the successor of Mr. Addington, having been nominated Chancellor of Ireland by the title of Lord Redesdale, the chair of the House of Commons thus became vacant.

To the honour of the representative body, the candidates for this high and important situation

are but few; for in addition to a marked reputation for talents, much learning, great dignity, uncommon patience, and conspicuous impartiality, added to an extraordinary degree of research, are all required. Besides these qualifications, that of a *good constitution* ought not to be forgotten; for, however honourable, the office must at the same time be allowed to be laborious and fatiguing in no common degree. It is not only a constant attendance that is required, but the evening debate is not unfrequently protracted to a late hour in the morning, while, unmindful of the refreshment of sleep, and almost of the calls of nature, the Speaker is to support decorum, enforce obedience to order, decide ultimately in respect to every contest, regulate pre-audience, and not unfrequently declare the law and usage of Parliament on any disputed points.

Nor is it only during the time that the mace is placed before him, and while attended by a secretary, trainbearer, and serjeant at arms, that his powers are called into action. It is by means of the clerks and officers of the House, regulated by and solely under his control, that the whole business of the Commons of England is organized, adjusted, and completed. In the Speaker's office the money and other bills which originate with the House are first engrossed, and all of what may be termed the mechanical business of Parliament commences, and is carried forward; so that the operations not only of the individual members,

but of the whole of this branch of the legislature, are thus, silently indeed, but expeditiously, effected.

An employment of another kind remains to be mentioned. The Speaker of the House of Commons (who is always previously approved of by the King, and usually nominated *ex officio* a member of the privy council), is supposed and indeed enabled to exercise the rights of hospitality, and that too with all becoming magnificence. For this purpose he is provided with a noble service of plate, and a liberal allowance, to which a spacious mansion in Palace-yard has been recently added.

To this high office, part of the duties of which have been thus briefly enumerated, Mr. Abbot was first nominated on Feb. 10, 1802. He was proposed by the Master of the Rolls (Sir William Grant), and the motion was seconded by Mr. Baker, member for the county of Hertford. Mr. Sheridan, without specifying any objection, briefly remarked, "that in better times it was the practice to choose a speaker from the landed interest," and then nominated Mr. Charles Dundas, in which Lord G. Cavendish concurred. The latter gentleman, however, declined in a handsome manner, observing, "that Mr. Abbot was so much better qualified for the office, that he himself was determined to support him," on which the latter was immediately elected.

On the succeeding day, being attended by a numerous body of the members, he presented him-

self at the bar of the House of Peers, to which he was introduced with the usual formalities by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod. He then briefly informed the Lords Commissioners of his election, on which the Lord Chancellor complimented him on his capability for the discharge of the important functions assigned to him by the decision of the Commons; and added, that this choice was accompanied by his Majesty's complete approbation.

A new Parliament having been called in the course of the same year, Sir William Scott, after descanting on the qualifications necessary for a Speaker of the House of Commons, and the peculiar claims which the gentleman who lately occupied that office had on the House, observed, "that during the time the right honourable person just alluded to had filled the chair, he had discovered industry the most severe, joined to attention the most unremitting and the most minute. To knowledge the most extensive," continued Sir William, "he has added principles the most strictly consonant with the genius of our excellent constitution. Public decorum he has ever made consistent with the mildness of private intercourse. Dignity in his official situation has never been found unmixed with the most bland and engaging manners. Every expectation formed of him has been amply realized; and as the House seems to entertain the same sentiment, I shall sit down

with moving that the Right Honourable Charles Abbot be called to the chair."

Mr. H. Lascelles having seconded the motion, Mr. Abbot remarked, that "the highest honour to which any member of that House could aspire was, to be recommended to its notice as a person qualified to fill the office in question." He at the same time alluded to his own insufficiency, and observed, that "although the journals of the House, and the recorded transactions of our history, afforded much instruction to a Speaker, yet neither his knowledge nor his conduct could be serviceable, unless he possessed the confidence and good opinion of that House; nor ought he to hold it one hour after that confidence was withdrawn."

Having been then led to the chair by Sir William Scott who had proposed, and Mr. Lascelles who had seconded the motion, he was seated in due form, after which he again addressed himself to the House as follows:

"Placed in this chair a second time by the indulgent favour of the House, I beg leave to assure it, that I am impressed with the deepest sense of gratitude. But I am persuaded that the House will rather judge of my gratitude hereafter, by my sincere endeavours to discharge the duties of this office, than by any language which I could now use, and which must be inadequate to express the extent of my obligation."

In the execution of this office, he had an oppor-

tunity for shewing the independence of his character. We now allude to, without presuming to enter into the merits of, the case of a member of the other House, lately accused of malversation. On this occasion, as is well known, the numbers were exactly equal, and the Speaker was called on to decide.

To the credit of the *chair*, it seems to have been considered as a point of honour on the part of whoever has occupied it of late years, to act on such occasions independently. Sir Fletcher Norton, afterwards Lord Grantley, in a case not exactly similar to the present, excited the indignation of a former Premier by his spirited conduct, in the presence of Majesty itself; and Mr. Pitt, on a former occasion, when the votes of the House were nicely equipoised, found that Mr. Cornwall had spirit enough to make the unpopular cause kick the beam, by throwing the mace into the opposite scale. In the present instance, Mr. Abbot, after expressing his reasons in a short but comprehensive speech, conducted himself in a similar manner, and decided in the first instance on the guilt and prosecution of Viscount Melville.

In the year 1817 he was created a peer, by the title of Lord Colchester, upon which he retired from public life.

Lord Colchester married the daughter of Sir P. Gibbs, Bart. of Springhead, in the island of Barbadoes, and usually resides with his family, during the recess, at his seat, called Mayfield, at Kid-

brook, near East Grinstead; it is a charming house, surrounded by extensive grounds, formerly in the possession of the Earl of Abergavenny.

It may at first appear extraordinary, that so grave a character should exchange the mace for the sword, and accept a commission in the volunteers; but even this is not without precedent during the civil wars, nor without example, in the person of one of his predecessors, in our own times. Mr. Abbot, reflecting on the propriety of affording a salutary example, as well as evincing the policy of a general armament, some time since accepted of a troop of cavalry in the North Pevensey Legion, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, and actually commanded the right wing of the Sussex line, under Lord Sheffield, during a late review.

Lord Colchester is a Doctor of Laws of the University of Oxford, F. R. S. and F. A. S.

His Lordship is now in his 71st year; and, except upon questions affecting the religion of the country, he seldom takes any part in the debates of Parliament.

LORD HILL,

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES.

THE family to which Lord Hill belongs, has been long seated in Shropshire. It is not too much to say, that it has been immemorially distinguished for benevolence and virtue. It has exhibited, for a long succession of years, the pearls or fruits of hereditary example and a good domestic education. By means of such example, and such education, each successive head of the family has transmitted his own virtue and piety to his children; and the latter, in their own turn, have conveyed the same solid patrimony to their own descendants. Such is the value of *family habits of piety and virtue.* Their effect extends beyond the individual. They form families and households to virtue; and secure the piety of generations yet unborn.

One of the ancestors of Lord Hill, Sir Rowland Hill, mercer, was Lord Mayor of London, in the year 1550, and is mentioned by Leland, the learned antiquary. "There is," says Leland, "a new bridge of stone made on Terne by a merchant of London, called Rowland Hill, a little above the confluence of the Severn and Terne." And Camden adds, "The old bridge of Atcham was erected in the reign of King Edward VI. at the sole ex-

pense of Rowland Hill, merchant, formerly Lord Mayor of London, whose extraordinary munificence and liberality were displayed in many public works in different parts of the kingdom, and particularly in this his native county. For, besides founding a free grammar school at Drayton, and allotting sufficient stipends for the maintenance of the same, he annually clothed three hundred poor people. He also contributed most liberally to the repairing Stoke church, and built two stone bridges, viz. this at Atcham, and one at Terne, and two others of timber, at his own cost and charge, during his lifetime."

In this Sir Rowland Hill the family was divided into two branches, one of which, according to a brief memoir, from which we are writing, was represented by the late Noel Hill, Esq. of Attingham or Atcham, who was for many years one of the knights of the shire. This gentleman, about the year 1782, built a most beautiful seat at Terne, to which he has given the name of Attingham. In 1784, Mr. Hill was created Baron Berwick, of Nottingham, in which title he was succeeded by his son, the present Lord Berwick.

Sir Rowland Hill, the grandfather of Lord Hill, was of the other branch of the family; he is mentioned as a most worthy and honourable gentleman in all the relations of his public and private life. He contributed very liberally to the comforts and conveniences of his neighbourhood, and built, and founded, we believe, some public works

at Shrewsbury and in its vicinity. Of these the most conspicuous and most useful is the English bridge, as it is termed, in contradistinction to the Welsh; respecting which we find the following notice, viz.

"On Thursday, July 27, 1769, Sir Rowland Hill, Bart. laid the first stone of the new bridge here, with this inscription, erected under the direction of Mr. John Gwynn:—

ANNO CHRISTI, MDCCLXIX.
GEORG. III. REGIS, IX.
JOANNE GWYNN ARCHITECTO
HUJUSCE PONTIS,
PUBLICO COMITATUS SUMPTU EXTRUENDI,
PRIMUM LAPIDEM POSUIT
ROLANDUS HILL, BARONETTUS,
ROLANDI HILL, EQUIT. OLIM PRÆTORIS LONDIN.
CONSANGUINEUS,
QUI PONTEM JAM VETUSTATE LABENTEM,
ANNOS ABHINC CC. ET PLURES
SUMPTU SUO PROPRIO
MUNIFICENTISSIME FUNDAVIT.

Sir Rowland Hill, at his death, left three sons, namely, Sir Richard Hill, Bart. who was, for several years, one of the representatives of the county of Salop, and who died at his beautiful seat at Hawkestone, November 28, 1808, in the 76th year of his age.

This seat, ten miles from Shrewsbury, has been justly termed "An Elysian residence." It was, at

a most enormous expense, formed out of a sandy waste; but has been embellished with so much taste, that the particular features that adorn it can scarcely receive justice from the most animated and vivid description.

The family mansion stands in a grove of oaks, it is a large brick building, with spacious wings. The style of its architecture is rather grand than elegant, a style that indicates, in its sumptuous solidity, liberality and benevolence. The park ranges in its front, and the adjacent village abounds with monuments of the taste and munificence of Sir Richard Hill; upon the hospitality of whose hall, he was once in parliament complimented by the late Mr. Pitt.

Sir Richard was succeeded in his title and estates by his second brother, the present Sir John Hill, Bart. who is the father of Lord Hill.

The third son of the late Sir Rowland is the Rev. Rowland Hill, who, at a very early age, devoted his talents and his fortune to the reformation of mankind; who has been, in his holy labours, indefatigable: and, as he undertook the great cause of salvation with an ardour which induced him to sacrifice every other consideration to his duty, and both by his preaching and living to set it forth and shew it accordingly, we understand that he has been concomitantly successful.

Sir John Hill, the third and late baronet, was born July 21, 1740. He married one of the daughters and co-heiresses of John Chambre, of

Petton, in Shropshire, Esq. by whom he has had sixteen children. He, for thirteen years, represented the town of Shrewsbury in Parliament, in which situation we well remember him. As an able and upright senator, it is to be lamented that he should have ever been opposed!

Lieutenant-General Lord Hill, who is colonel of the 72nd regiment, is the fourth son of the above-mentioned baronet. He was born August 1, 1772, and entered the army at an early period of his life. He passed through all the gradations of military rank, with that credit and esteem which are the certain accompaniments of correct conduct and gentlemanly manners. He did not find it necessary to recommend himself to his younger companions, by partaking with them in vicious and frivolous pursuits. He did not dissipate his time, and contract the habits of idleness, by consuming his mornings at the billiard-room: he relieved study and amusement by alternating them with each other. His piety assisted rather than impeded him in the performance of all the active duties of life; and, by a peculiar sweetness of temper, he shewed the practical fruit and effect which are appended to true religion, as their natural stock: and he recommended his example to the imitation of others, by embellishing it with the ornamental graces of the manners of an officer and a gentleman.

General Hill accompanied General Abercrombie on the expedition to Egypt. It was certainly no

slight distinction to be mentioned with peculiar praise, as one of the officers upon this service. The thanks of the houses of Parliament were voted to the navy and army, and each regiment which had served during the campaign was permitted to add an embroidered sphinx to its colours, and to have the word Egypt inscribed on them. The Grand Seignior likewise testified his gratitude, by instituting, for this special purpose, the Order of the Crescent. The principal commanders were admitted to the honour of this knighthood, and gold medals were distributed among the field officers, captains, and subalterns of the victorious army.

General Hill's next service was in the war of the Peninsula. In the battle of Talavera he eminently distinguished himself. He was wounded, after having repulsed the French in repeated attacks. It is well known that it is the established practice of the French generals to select some point in the enemy's line, and to endeavour to bear it down, as well by superior numbers as by repeated attacks. They not only usually commence their battles according to this practice, but, in the course of the action, and in the attacks of the reserve, they govern themselves on the same principle. The superiority of the English bayonet, which has enabled our men to support themselves a longer time against a great superiority of numbers, and thereby afforded time for distant succour to be brought up, has hitherto foiled this

manœuvre crowned with so much success against the Prussians and Austrians. But it evidently requires a very considerable degree of firmness and dexterity to support the first attack. It is for this firmness, therefore, that General Hill deserves praise. He is said to have displayed it eminently in the battle of which we are speaking. Mr. Perceval moved the thanks of the House of Commons for this victory; he took occasion in his speech upon this subject, to mention the distinguished manner in which General Hill had repulsed the French at the point of the bayonet.

The next exploit of General Hill was at the battle of Almaraz, in the conduct of which he so much distinguished himself, that the denomination of Almaraz was afterwards inserted in his patent of nobility. The particulars of this battle are related with great praise by the Duke of Wellington, in his official despatches published on the occasion. Lord Hill's (at that time Sir Rowland) letter to the Commander-in-chief on the occasion, is here worthy of insertion.

"TRUXILLO, *May* 21, 1812.

"MY LORD,—I have the satisfaction to acquaint your Lordship, that your instructions relative to the capture and destruction of the enemy's works at Almaraz, have been most fully carried into effect by a detachment of troops under my orders, which marched from Almendralejo on the 12th instant.

"The bridge was, as your Lordship knows, pro-

tected by strong works, thrown up by the French on both sides of the river, and further covered on the southern side by the castle and redoubts of Mirabete, about a league off, commanding the pass of that name, through which runs the road to Madrid, being the only one passable for carriages of any description, by which the bridge can be approached.

"The works on the left bank of the river were a tête-du-pont, built of masonry, and strongly intrenched, and on the high ground above it, a large and well constructed fort, called Napoleon, with an interior intrenchment, and loop-holed tower in its centre. This fort contained nine pieces of cannon, with a garrison of between four and five hundred men. There being also on the opposite side of the river, on a height immediately above the bridge, a very complete fort recently constructed, which flanked and added much to its defence.

"On the morning of the 16th, the troops reached Jaraicejo, and on the same evening marched in three columns; the left column, commanded by Lieutenant-general Chowne, (28th and 34th regiments under Colonel Wilson, and the 6th Portuguese Caçadores), towards the Castle of Mirabete; the right column, under Major-general Howard, (50th, 71st, and 92d regiments), which I accompanied myself, to a pass in the mountains, through which a most difficult and circuitous foot-path leads by the village of Romangordo to the bridge;

the centre column, under Major-general Long, (6th and 18th Portuguese infantry, under Colonel Ashworth, and 13th light dragoons, with the artillery,) advanced upon the high road, to the pass of Mirabete.

"The two flank columns were provided with ladders, and it was intended that either of them should proceed to escalade the forts against which they were directed, had circumstances proved favourable; the difficulties, however, which each had to encounter on its march were such, that it was impossible for them to reach their respective points before day-break; I judged it best, therefore, as there was no longer a possibility of surprise, to defer the attack, until we should be better acquainted with the nature and positions of the works, and the troops bivouacqued on the Leina.

"I determined on endeavouring to penetrate to the bridge by the mountain path leading through the village of Romangordo, although, by that means, I should be deprived of the use of my artillery.

"On the evening of the 18th I moved with Major-general Howard's brigade, and the 6th Portuguese regiment for the operation, provided with scaling ladders, &c. Although the distance marched did not exceed five or six miles, the difficulties of the road were such, that, with the united exertions of officers and men, the column could not be formed for the attack before day-light. Confiding, however, in the valour of the troops, I or-

dered the immediate assault of Fort Napoleon. My confidence was fully justified by the event.

"The first battalion of the 50th, and one wing of the 71st regiment, regardless of the enemy's artillery and musketry, escaladed the work in three places, nearly at the same time. The enemy seemed at first determined, and his fire was destructive, but the ardour of our troops was irresistible, and the garrison was driven at the point of the bayonet, through the several intrenchments of the fort and tête du-pont, across the bridge, which having been cut by those on the opposite side of the river, many leaped into the river, and thus perished.

"The impression made upon the enemy's troops was such, that panic soon communicated itself to those on the right bank of the river, and Fort Ragusa was instantly abandoned, the garrison flying in the greatest confusion, towards Naval Moral.

"I cannot sufficiently praise the conduct of the 50th and 71st regiments, to whom the assault fell. The cool and steady manner in which they formed and advanced, and the intrepidity with which they mounted the ladders, and carried the place, was worthy of those distinguished corps, and the officers who led them.

"Could the attack have been made before day, the 92d regiment, under Lieutenant-colonel Cameron, and the remainder of the 71st regiment, under the Honourable Lieutenant-colonel Cado-

gan, were to have escaladed the tête-du-pont, and effected the destruction of the bridge, at the same time that the attack was made on Fort Napoleon. The impossibility of advancing deprived them of this opportunity of distinguishing themselves, but the share which they had in the operation, and the zeal which they displayed, entitles them to my warmest commendation; and I cannot avoid to mention the steadiness and good discipline of the 6th Portuguese infantry, and two companies of the 60th regiment, under Colonel Ashworth, which formed the reserve to this attack.

"Our operations in this quarter were much favoured by a diversion made by Lieutenant-General Chowne, with the troops under his orders, against the Castle of Mirabete, which succeeded in inducing the enemy to believe that we should not attack the forts near the bridge, until we had forced the pass, and thus have made way for our artillery. The Lieutenant-General conducted this operation, as well as his former advance, entirely to my satisfaction. I regret much that the peculiar situation of Mirabete, should have prevented my allowing the gallant corps under his orders, to follow up an operation which they had commenced with much spirit, and were so anxious to complete."

Throughout the remainder of the war in the Peninsula, Sir Rowland Hill continued in the same line of meritorious service. Upon the conclusion of the peace, in 1814, and the distribution of the

honours and rewards to the officers who had so well deserved of their country, he was raised to the dignity of the peerage, by the name of Baron Hill, of Almaraz and Hawkestone. The heir of this title is the present Sir Rowland Hill, the nephew of his Lordship.

Since the peace, Lord Hill has lived almost entirely in retirement, from which recent events have called him forth, to take the important office of Commander-in-chief.

THE MARQUIS OF CONYNGHAM.

THIS nobleman is one of those men, who, though unfortunately for the kingdom of Ireland an absentee at the present period, has not always been amongst the number of those who expend abroad what they receive at home, and thus, at least, leave the vicinity of their estates wholly unimproved, that is to say, leave the peasantry of their neighbourhood in the same miserable condition in which they found them, and contribute absolutely nothing to the tradesmen and manufacturers of the adjoining towns. Without entering further into the numerous ill effects of absenteeism, so much is manifest to the most cursory observer. It is impossible to travel in the kingdom of Ireland without being much struck with

two features of the country—the extreme paucity of country seats, and the ragged and naked condition both of the country itself and the population around the seats which still remain of the gentry and nobility of Ireland. In England, the characteristic images of a country seat are a cheerful, well cultivated, and well sheltered domain—an ancient rookery, and a well dressed lawn—two or three home paddocks, with their clipt hawthorn hedges—a garden, an orchard, and a village church. In Ireland, there is nothing of this kind. The traveller may proceed sixty English miles along one of the main roads of the kingdom, without either seeing a church, or, if he should pass one, knowing it to be a church; and he will in vain look out for any of those ancient elms and venerable oaks, which constitute the beauty of English scenery. A hawthorn hedge is scarcely to be seen, and a garden and orchard are sufficiently rare to be enumerated as curiosities. There will be seen nothing like the tradesmen of our country towns,—men, who, by a long course of industry, and by dealing in every thing, have amassed their three or four thousand pounds, which they lend out on bond or mortgage to the neighbouring clergy or gentry, and in time become themselves the small freeholders in their county. There is still less any thing like the substantial mechanics of England,—that class of men, who, in our country towns and villages, fill the occupations of sadlers, carpenters, plough-wrights,

shoemakers, and blacksmiths, and by their regular industry, and slow but long continued economy and good conduct, frequently rise, in the second or third generation, to the condition of farmers or small proprietors. In Ireland, from the effect of absenteeism, there is nothing of this cheerful aspect and progressive rise from one condition to another. The son continues in the same abject poverty with his fathers before him. The functions of the sadler, the carpenter, or other village mechanic, are either not at all required, or are barbarously supplied by the ingenuity of any peasant himself, who may happen to need the operation. In a word, there is no such class of tradesmen or mechanics in the rural population of Ireland, and, therefore, neither encouragement, reward, nor any practicable means, by which the condition of the peasantry may be raised and improved.

The Marquis of Conyngham, however, though now an absentee, has only of late years become one of this number, and in the former period of his life has so industriously endeavoured to improve the condition of his estates, that he may still justly be regarded as one of the benefactors of his country.

The Marquis is the son of the Lord Conyngham, who was the first peer of this family, having been ennobled by the late King, in the year 1780. It will be remembered by those acquainted with the state of Ireland at that period, that the Irish were very generally discontented with that po-

licy of the English Government, by which the Irish trade was restricted in favour of what were deemed the interests of the English manufacturers. It must be confessed, that no policy could be more selfish and barbarous—that is to say, selfish as to its avowed and ostensible objects, and barbarous as respected the means by which the English cabinet hoped to accomplish this ungenerous end. An act was passed in the English Parliament, the preamble of which we believe was, that, inasmuch as it was desirable to promote the trade and commerce of Ireland, so far as was consistent with the interests of England, the people of Ireland should hereafter be allowed to cultivate tobacco, and to trade in several articles which were therein enumerated. —This act, which was called "The Seventeen Resolutions," (we speak from memory, and may possibly mistake the exact term), excited a flame from one end of the kingdom to the other, and the immediate consequence was, the formation of a corps of volunteers, called the Lawyers' Corps, who enrolled themselves professedly to superintend the public peace and defence of the kingdom; and almost every nobleman and gentleman in the country became either an officer or private in this corps, and, amongst others, if we can trust our memory in relating events so long since past, and no where recorded but in the tradition of families—was the first Lord Conyngham. We believe, indeed, that he was one of the chief officers, and was thence familiarly called, General Conyngham

Be this as it may, the Lord Lieutenant of that period, the Duke of Rutland, found it necessary to recommend him for Court favour, and he was accordingly raised to the peerage by the title of Lord Conyngham.

The present Marquis, the son of this nobleman, was born in the year 1766, being about four years younger than his present Majesty. He was born whilst his father was a country gentleman, Mr. Pierrepoint C onyngham, and possessing not a very large estate, at Slane, in the county of Meath. This county is one of the northern provinces of Ireland, and is composed of twelve baronies, which correspond with our English division of hundreds; each barony, moreover, consisting of about twelve parishes, so that the number of parishes in the whole county is about one hundred and forty-four. The state of this county, and of Ireland generally, will be well conveyed by adding one further fact—that to these one hundred and forty-four parishes there are only forty-four churches, and *nineteen* parsonage houses. Slane, the estate of the Marquis of Conyngham, is one of these parishes. It is seated on the banks of the Boyne, and is beautifully watered by the course of that river. The pillar, which is erected to commemorate the battle of the Boyne, and the place where King William passed, can either be seen from the Marquis's grounds, or is immediately in their vicinity.

The Marquis entered the army in his youth, and was, of course, in the service during the whole

period of the late war, but, we believe, was for a great part of the time employed in Ireland. His promotion was such as might have been expected from his station; he reached the rank of major-general when he was in his forty-second year. Upon this occasion, he made his appearance in the English court, having kissed hands upon his appointment in the year 1808.

The late Marquis died about the year 1787. The Marquis was only just of age when he succeeded to his father's title and estate. The Irish Legislature was existing at that time; and the present Marquis distinguished himself much as a frequent speaker and an active politician. Upon most questions, he appears to have spoken and voted for the Government, and accordingly received all the favours which the Crown patronage had to bestow. Two years after he had entered the Irish House of Lords, he was advanced to the rank of Viscount, by the name of Viscount Mount-Charles, a title now borne by his eldest son.

Like Lord Oriel, Lord Conyngham was indefatigable upon all questions relating to the agriculture and commerce of Ireland, and particularly to the corn and cotton trade. It was a long time before the jealousy of the English landlords would admit the importation of Irish corn; and Mr. Foster, the great friend of Ireland, in vain endeavoured, for a long series of years, to accomplish this object. We have lived, however, to see this end gained; and the consequence has been a greater

improvement in the general condition of Ireland, and particularly as regards the cultivation of the lands, than could have arisen in a century from any other cause. The effects upon England have been, that Ireland now sends nearly as much corn into the English market as England had been accustomed to receive from all Europe together, and therefore that quantity of capital is now employed to enrich and improve Ireland, an English possession, which hitherto passed into the hands of foreigners. Mr. Huskisson, and those who think and act with him, may possibly suppose this result of little consequence; but we must beg leave to be of opinion, that it cannot be a matter of such total indifference, whether the course of our trade and expenditure be such as to enrich ourselves and our own countrymen, or be such as to enrich foreigners. In our humble opinion, the first duty of a rich and generous nation, as of a rich and generous individual, is to take care of its own neighbours, friends, and dependants, and to make its expenditure amongst them in preference to parties more distant and remote. As it would ill become a country gentleman or nobleman, during his residence upon his country estate, to procure all his household articles from the Metropolis, because he could purchase them at a less price; so, even in national concerns, there may be other interests besides mere cheapness, and other duties besides that of a prudential consistency with the principles of free trade. In plain words, Ireland re-

quires encouragement, preference and protection, and it is no less the interest, than the duty of England, to afford them.

Lord Conyngham adopted a still more effectual course to promote the interests of agriculture in Ireland. He took his estate at Slane into his own hands, and in order that he might teach his countrymen the practice of agriculture by exhibiting an example in his own person, he resolved to farm it himself. He was assisted in effecting this purpose, by accidentally meeting an English farmer of great experience, who happened about this period to be travelling in Ireland. This person was Mr. Parkinson, so well known amongst agriculturalists as the author of the "Experimental Farmer," and as having travelled and farmed in America from pure love to agriculture. In a subsequent volume upon "Irish Farming," which Mr. Parkinson published after returning from Slane, he gives the following account of his engagement with Lord Conyngham, and of his estate at Slane.

"In the year 1801, in the month of October of that year, I was in Ireland, and was recommended, by some friends in Dublin, to visit the fair of Ballinasloe, where, I was told, I should see some examples of the effect of Irish farming, as there would be many thousands of sheep, abundance of cattle and horses, and a ploughing-match.—These were powerful inducements; and, being accompanied by a gentleman of the name of Frazer, I set off in the canal-boat for Tullamore.

From Tullamore, where we landed, we travelled in a post-chaise to Ballinasloe; and we found the fair answer every expectation. There were many good sheep, and some fine cattle; and, when the day for the ploughing-match was arrived, myself and Lord Conyngham were appointed the judges. We were likewise specially designated to examine the prize-hogs, and determine their respective qualities. Having thus an opportunity of conversing with his Lordship upon the subject of animals, he gave me a very kind invitation to Slane, where, he said, he had much finer hogs than any exhibited at Ballinasloe.

"After returning to Dublin," proceeds Mr. Parkinson, "and staying there some time, I set off, according to my promise, for Slane, where I found every thing surpass what had been represented to me. Lord Conyngham rode around his estate with me the day after my arrival, and, in the morning of the next day, gave me a statement of its different divisions, and the number of acres, and agreed with me as to my services."

We cannot quit this author without one further extract, as it contains a lively and faithful portraiture of Lord Conyngham's estate and neighbourhood.

"It may not be unamusing to the English reader," says Mr. Parkinson, "to be furnished with some account of the people of Ireland. The gentlemen are, to every appearance, similar to the gentlemen in England. The laws, too, are

said to be the same; but, during my residence in the country, I never saw them executed in the same manner. It is thought to be a great respect to a person to be accompanied to his grave by a great number of people; now the greatest concourse I ever saw upon such an occasion, was after the body of a man, who had been hanged for robbing the mail. There are very few respectable farmers; those who are called so, are worse in appearance and enjoy less comfort than an English labourer. They live in cabins, most of them without chimnies. The next rank to these, the peasantry, are miserable indeed. They are almost all thieves, that is, they steal the stubble from the land, turnips, hay, straw. Instead of taking them to the justice, I used to execute the law summarily myself, by giving them a good horse-whipping. They live entirely on potatoes and salt. The fire is in the middle of the hovel; the pot in which they boil their potatoes, is set on three stones, and the man, his wife and children, all sit round, enveloped in smoke. If the family possess any poultry, a pig, or a cow, an ass, or a horse, they all make part of the family, and have a free use of the cabin; they feed in it, and go in and out at their will. The state of the floor may be thence imagined, but this is no objection to the family, they all sit on it and sleep on it. Is this all owing to oppression? Not at all: they are the laziest people in the earth, the women never mend their clothes; they never darn a hole in their stocking,

but wear it till the foot comes off. The men wear what they call a trusty, which covers them all over, and conceals what they may have stolen. The women wear a large blue or grey cloak, which covers them in the same manner, and answers the same end."

In the year 1794, his Lordship married the rich and beautiful daughter of Mr. Dennison, a wealthy merchant, at that time carrying on a lucrative business in St. Mary Axe. In 1821, he was created a peer of the realm, under the title of Baron Minster. His son, Lord Mount Charles, was born in 1797.

Upon the conclusion of the war, his Majesty, as is well known, made a visit to Ireland, and was hospitably received and entertained at Slane Castle. Here, probably, commenced that more intimate acquaintance between his Majesty and the Marquis of Conyngham and his family, which induced the King, upon his return to England, to invite the whole family to Court,—and, after they had accepted the invitation, to retain them in his household.

FINIS.

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